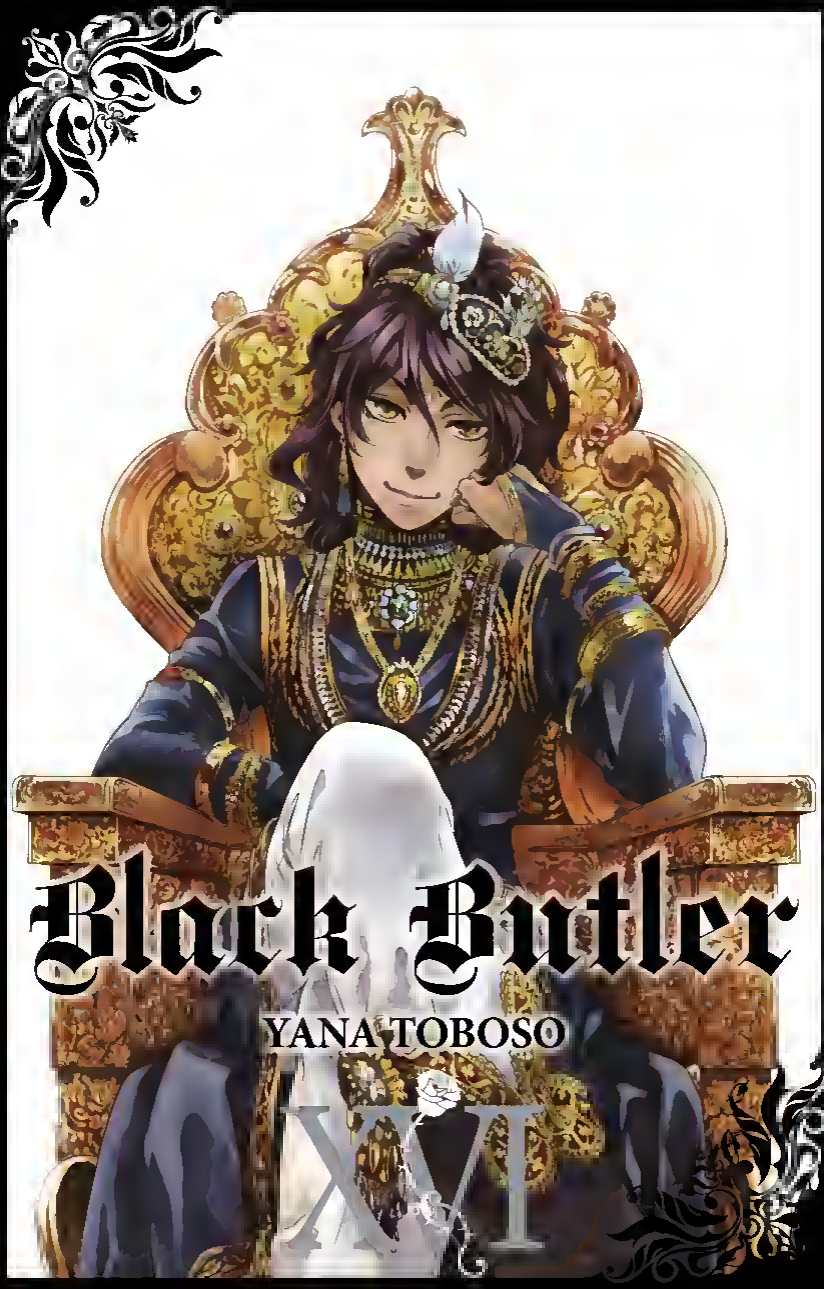
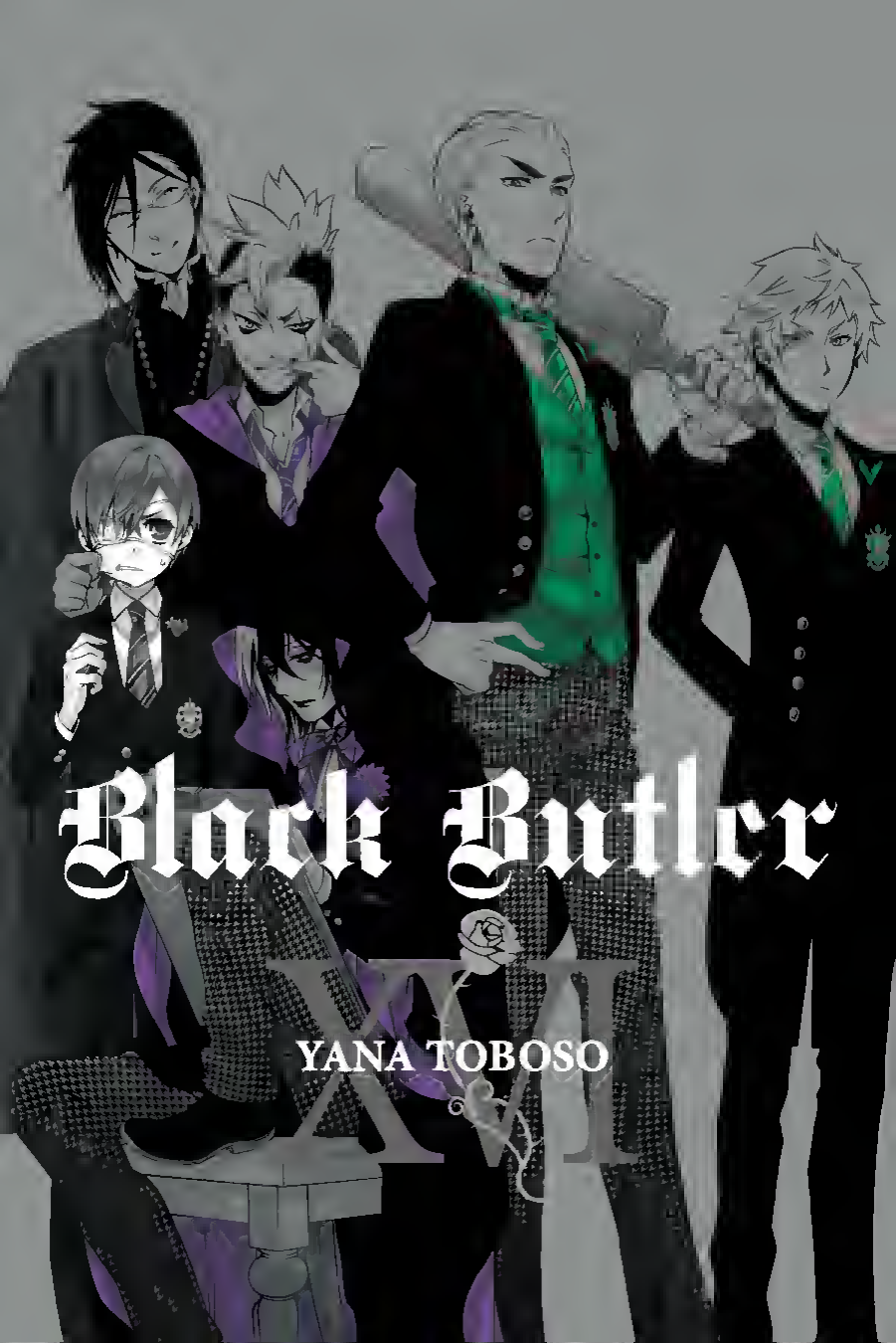

Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO
XVI


Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO

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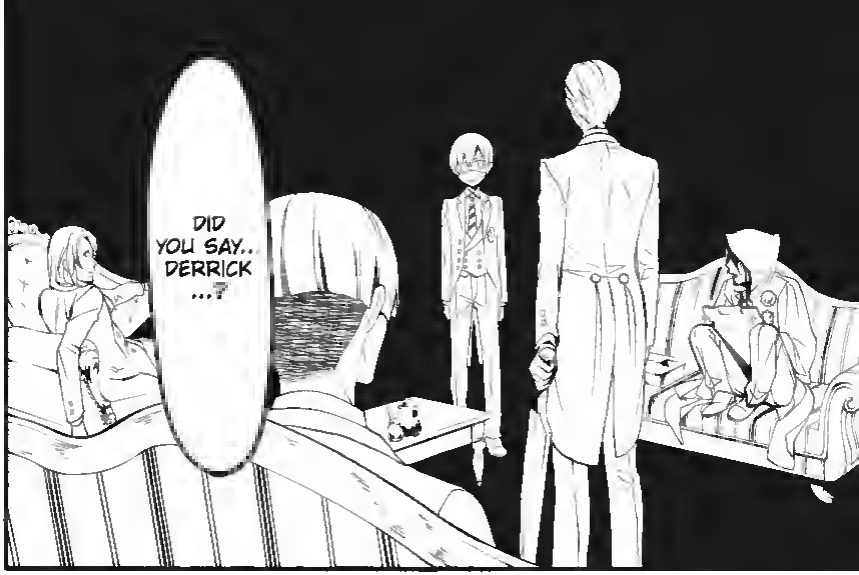
CHAPTER 73

In the morning: The Butler, Colluding


DID YOU SAY.. DERRICK ...?

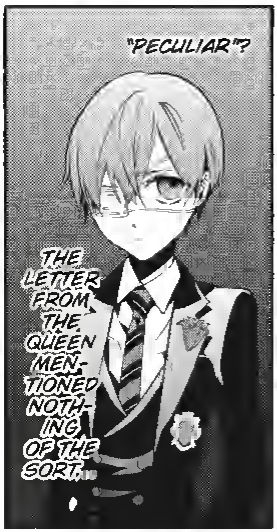
ER.....! WELL...
THE MIEN OF THE P4 HAS SUDDENLY CHANGED!?

IF I RECALL, DERRICK ARDEN IS THE SON OF DUKE CLEMENS, RIGHT?
YES.
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU WOULD KNOW HIM.
WE PLAYED TOGETHER MANY TIMES WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
HOHH?
THE P4 CLEARLY BECAME UNEASY THE MOMENT I MENTIONED DERRICK'S NAME.
BUT THEIR FACES DON'T SEEM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ...?
IN DERRICK'S LETTERS, HE SAID THAT HE WAS RESIDING IN RED HOUSE...
...SO UPON MY ARRIVAL HERE, I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT HE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PURPLE HOUSE.
I'LL TRY PRESSING THEM A LITTLE MORE.
.....

IT TOOK US SOME TIME TO NOTICE HIS TRUE PERSONALITY, YOU SEE.

QUITE.
HE WAS CERTAINLY TALENTED... HOWEVER...

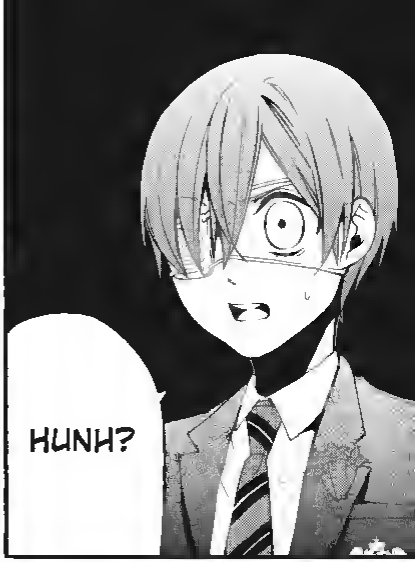
HE WAS MY FAG FOR A TIME AS WELL...
A VERY CAPABLE FELLOW.


"PECULIAR"?
THE LETTER FROM THE QUEEN MENTIONED NOTHING OF THE SORT...

HE WAS PECULIAR, AT THE VERY LEAST.

I CAN'T BE ENTIRELY CERTAIN, BUT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, IT IS...
PATAN (SHUT)
WHAT MIGHT DERRICK'S GIFT BE?
I SEE. PURPLE HOUSE DOES TAKE IN ECCEN... THAT IS, STUDENTS WHO EXCEL AT ONE PARTICULAR THING, AFTER ALL.
EMBROI-DERY.
SONG-WRITING.
CRICKET.
MEMORI-SATION.

IN ANY CASE!
ER...?
IT WAS THE HEAD-MASTER'S DECISION TO TRANSFER HIM.


HUNH?

...THE HEADMASTER'S DECISION IS ABSOLUTE!

NO ORDER FROM THE HEADMASTER IS EVER WRONG.

.....

AND...

HOWEVER MUCH YOU CHALK IT UP TO TRADITION...
FOR THE PREFECTS TO NOT EVEN KNOW THE REASON!..
—BY THE WAY, IN REGARD TO THE FOURTH OF JUNE CEREMONY ...
—HOW VERY ODD.
...!
...I HAVE NO DOUBT.
AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR REACTIONS AT THE SOUND OF DERRICK'S NAME...
THE P4 IS ATTEMPTING TO CONCEAL SOMETHING!!

.....
SHAKA (SHA)
SHAKA
PERHAPS IT'S BEST IF I DROP THE MATTER HERE.
BUT IF I CONTINUE TO HOUND THEM, I'LL AROUSE THEIR SUSPICIONS.
SHAKA
SHAKA

I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU'D CALL ME OUT TO A PLACE LIKE THIS BEHIND THE SCHOOL...
...BUT IT'S JUST TO TALK ABOUT DERRICK ARDEN AGAIN, IS IT?

THAT SAID...
...DERRICK ARDEN WASN'T THE ONLY ONE TO BE TRANS-FERRED.

I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T THE TYPE TO TAKE ANY INTEREST IN OTHER PEOPLE.
IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
WITH THE HOUSES SO HOSTILE TO EACH OTHER, FOR HIM TO HAVE BEEN TRANS-FERRED FROM ONE TO THE OTHER IS JUST...
SWING

I TOLD YOU I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS!
WHAT WERE THEIR NAMES!?
NO IDEA!

EH!?
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE OTHER HOUSES, BUT...
...IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, A NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRANSFERRED FROM RED HOUSE TO PURPLE HOUSE AROUND THE SAME TIME.

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT, BUT...
DID THEY CAUSE SOME SORT OF TROUBLE OR...?
WHY WOULD SO MANY STUDENTS BE TRANSFERRED ALL AT ONCE?
...I SEE.
SO EVEN EDWARD THINKS (LIKE) THAT.
BUN (SWING)
...IT WAS THE HEAD-MASTER'S DECISION, AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
CIEL!
BASH! (SNATCH)
I APOLO-GISE FOR TAKING YOUR TIME.
THANK YOU.
SU (FWIP)

WHY HAVE YOU COME TO THIS SCHOOL?
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE HERE AS THE WATCHDOG—

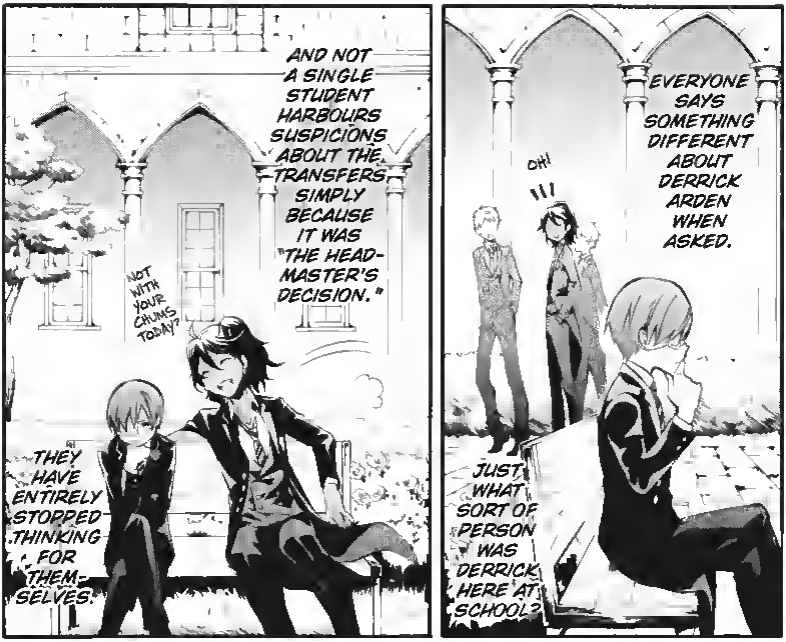
OHH.
YOU MEAN THE UPPERCLASS-MEN GLEASON, HARDY, ISAAC, AND THEWLIS?
I BELIEVE THEY WERE TRANSFERRED TO PURPLE HOUSE AROUND SIX MONTHS AGO.
WELL, WHY AREN'T YOU?
EEEH?
ZAWA (CHATTER)
ざわ
I SHOULD HAVE JUST ASKED MCMILLAN FIRST.
SAYYY, PHANTOMHIVE! WHY'RE YOU SO CURIOUS ABOUT THE OTHER HOUSES?
ざわ
ZAWA
?
WELL, I MEAN, IT WAS THE HEADMASTER'S DECISION AND ALL?

ME TOO!
AHHH! I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT TOO!
BUT NEVER MIND THAT! WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DO YOU TALK ABOUT WITH THE P4!?
PURPLE HOUSE IS FULL OF ECCENTRICS, SO MANY OF THEM APPARENTLY DROP OUT PARTWAY THROUGH TERM.
MAYBE IT WAS SIMPLY TO BALANCE THE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS?
THE HEAD-MASTER AGAIN...
I CAN'T WASTE TIME WITH THEM.
DO YOUR BEST, OKAAAAY!?
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT NEXT TIME.
GATA (RISE)
FOR-GIVE ME.
I HAVE AN ERRAND TO RUN FOR AN UPPER-CLASSMAN.
UM.. THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
OH! THE NEW MEMBER OF THE P4 FROM THE FIRST FORM
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ
Common Room

DERRICK ARDEN, HMMM? I BELIEVE HE WAS AN EXPERT IN TRANSCRIBING TEXTS?
DERRICK ARDEN WAS A PRIZE-WINNING PAINTER.
DERRICK ARDEN, THE FELLOW THEY CALLED THE DANCE EXPERT?
DERRICK ARDEN? HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A GREAT RUNNER OR SOMESUCH.

AND? WHY WAS HE TRANS-FERRED?

IT WAS THE HEADMASTER'S DECISION, RIGHT?
WHO KNOWS?


AND NOT A SINGLE STUDENT HARBOURS SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE TRANSFERS SIMPLY BECAUSE IT WAS "THE HEADMASTER'S DECISION."
NOT WITH YOUR CHUMS TODAY?
THEY HAVE ENTIRELY STOPPED THINKING FOR THEMSELVES.
EVERYONE SAYS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT DERRICK ARDEN WHEN ASKED.
OH!
JUST WHAT SORT OF PERSON WAS DERRICK HERE AT SCHOOL?

EH? HAVE I DONE SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU MAD!?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
ELITES AT A DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL?
THEY'RE WORSE THAN SHEEP OUT TO PASTURE.

DERRICK ARDEN ...?
YES. I AM WORRIED BECAUSE IT APPEARS THAT HE HAS FAILED TO ATTEND CLASSES FOR SOME TIME.
YOU EVEN EXTEND YOUR CONCERN TO THE STUDENTS OF OTHER HOUSES, DO YOU?
THE HOUSE IN WHICH A STUDENT RESIDES IS OF NO IMPORT TO ME.

HE WAS AN EXCELLENT STUDENT.
SU (SWF)
I DON'T KNOW...
IT WAS THE HEAD-MASTER'S DECISION.
HOH... THEN WHY WAS HIS HOUSE ASSIGN-MENT CHANGED?
I COULD NOT SAY...
IT WAS THE HEAD-MASTER'S DECI—
PERHAPS HIS TRUANCY CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SHOCK OF THE TRANSFER?

DA (DASH)
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
ZUDAAAN (WHAAM)
—SIO...
ZU (SLIP)
GORO (TUMBLE)
GORO
GORO
DA (THUD)
FORGIVE ME.
FORGIVE ME.
FORGIVE ME.
MISTER AGARES!?

POKU (SPURT)
POKU
NHEWWN...
...?
PASHI (GRAB)
THANK YOU.
SHALL I TAKE YOU TO THE INFIR-MARY?
NO, I AM FINE.

SU (SLIP)
...?
KASA (RUSTLE)
Sunt aliquid manes letum non omnia finit
Cynthia nanque meo vivit est incumbere fulci
Sapphire Owl
House Library

WHAT'S GOING ON? HE'S TOLD ME TO COME TO THE LIBRARY TODAY.
HEY, SE—
!!?
GUI CYANK
—Nn ...!?
!!

OH?
(SU)
(SWISH)
KO
(CLICK)
KO
KACHA
(CLACK)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?
!

PATAN (SHUTO)
SU (SWIP)
PARDON ME, MISTER MICHAELIS.
NO, SIR...
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
BASA (CLAP)
PHEEEEW...
I APOLOGISE FOR BEING ROUGH...
...BUT IT SEEMED AS THOUGH YOU WERE BEING FOLLOWED.
GUESS I'VE DONE ONE TOO MANY THINGS TO STAND OUT...

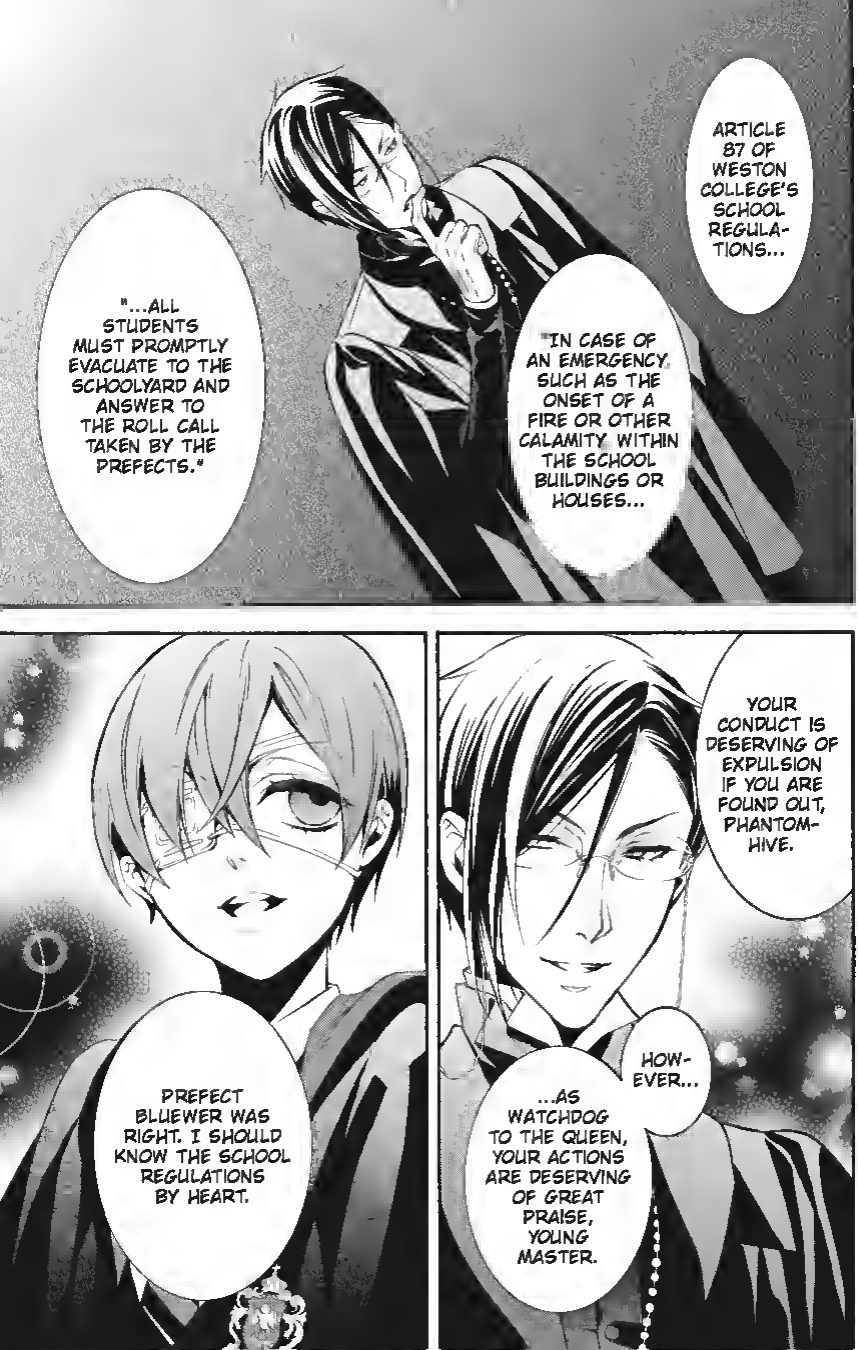
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE, I'LL HAVE TO USE WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH DERRICK DIRECTLY!
THE STAFF TOO, HM...? WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE LIKE THIS.
THE STAFF REPLIED THE SAME WAY AS WELL.
BUT SNIFFING AROUND WAS USELESS.
NO MATTER WHAT I ASKED, THE ULTIMATE RESPONSE WAS ALWAYS, "IT WAS THE HEADMASTER'S DECISION."
AAH.
YES, YOU ARE CORRECT.
HMM, MISTER MICHAELIS, SIR?
ISN'T IT THE MASTERS WHO METE OUT PUNISHMENTS TO THE STUDENTS?
HMPH.
BUT, YOUNG MASTER, ARE YOU NOT SURE TO BE PENALISED WITH TWO Ys※ IF YOU LEAVE YOUR HOUSE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
COME ALONG, SEBASTIAN.
GACHA GACHAKO

※Y: A UNIT OF PUNISHMENT FOR EACH "Y." STUDENTS MUST TRANSCRIBE A LATIN POEM ONE HUNDRED TIMES

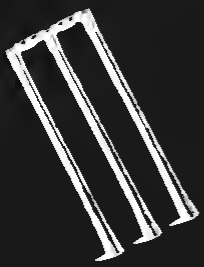
Violet Wolf House
WELL? HOW WILL YOU MEET WITH LORD DERRICK?
THIS HOUSE IS EVEN MORE ATMOSPHERIC AT NIGHT.
IF YOU SNEAK IN ONLY TO BE CAUGHT, IT WILL BE NO SMALL MATTER.
YOU ARE FORBIDDEN FROM ENTERING THE OTHER HOUSES.

STOP SMIRKING!
PASHI! (SNATCH)
HMPH.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO GO SO FAR AS TO DEPEND ON YOU.
NIYA (SMIRK)
OR WERE YOU PERHAPS HOPING TO RELY ON MY POWERS?
IF I CAN'T GET INSIDE HIS HOUSE...
ZA (WHOOSH)

GASHAAN (SMAASH)
FUN FUNG
...I JUST HAVE TO GET HIM TO COME OUT!!
BO (FWOOM)
ARE YOU AWARE OF ARTICLE 87 OF WESTON COLLEGE'S SCHOOL REGULATIONS...
...MISTER MICHAELIS?


ARTICLE 87 OF WESTON COLLEGE'S SCHOOL REGULATIONS...
"IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, SUCH AS THE ONSET OF A FIRE OR OTHER CALAMITY WITHIN THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS OR HOUSES...
"...ALL STUDENTS MUST PROMPTLY EVACUATE TO THE SCHOOLYARD AND ANSWER TO THE ROLL CALL TAKEN BY THE PREFECTS."
YOUR CONDUCT IS DESERVING OF EXPULSION IF YOU ARE FOUND OUT, PHANTOM-HIVE.
HOW-EVER...
...AS WATCHDOG TO THE QUEEN, YOUR ACTIONS ARE DESERVING OF GREAT PRAISE, YOUNG MASTER.
PREFECT BLUEWER WAS RIGHT. I SHOULD KNOW THE SCHOOL REGULATIONS BY HEART.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT KIND OF FELLOW HE IS.
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND JUST NOW?
(WOOSH)
(FWOOSH)
SOME-THING'S BURNING!
FIRE!!!
WE'LL MEET AT LAST!
EH, DERRICK ARDEN!?



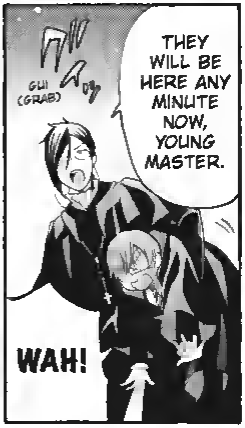
Black Butler

Chapter 74
At noon : The Butler, Gaining Admittance

GOO (WHOOSH)

EH, DERRICK ARDEN!?
WE'LL MEET AT LAST!

SUTO (LAND)


GUI (GRAB)
THEY WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE NOW, YOUNG MASTER.
WAH!

BAN (WHAM)
OUT WITH THE LOT OF YA! GET SOME-WHERE SAFE!
NO LOLLY-GAGGIN'!!
WAAH!

SEBASTIAN!
LOCATE DERRICK AND THE OTHERS!
YES, MY LORD.
KA (FLASH)
WAAAAAH!

GOOOO
GNOOOOOH!
WHAT'S GOING ON? ...GET OUT HERE ALREADY!
WAAAH!
HAVE THEY COME OUT?
NOT YET.
GOOO
OOO
WAAAH!
ROOM CAPTAINS! DO A ROLL CALL AND REPORT TO THE PREFECT!
.....
RIGHT!

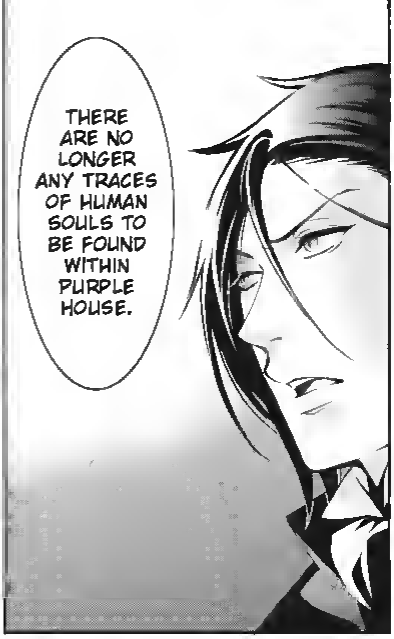
ARE THEY STILL NOT OUT YET!?
!!
PAHHH (SHATTER)
NO, SIR.
BOO (WHOOO)

BOO (WHOOO)
WAAAH!
WAAAH!

KUH ...! OH, VERY WELL.
SEBASTIAN, GO AND GET DERRICK AND THE OTHERS OUT OF TH—
A MOMENT, IF YOU WOULD.

IT IS AS I THOUGHT...
bzzzzz
?

AT THIS SLIGHT DISTANCE, ONE SUCH AS I CAN SENSE THE PRESENCE OF LIVING HUMANS FROM THEIR SOULS.
HOWEVER, ALL SIGNS POINTING TO HUMANS IN PURPLE HOUSE HAVE ALREADY VANISHED.


THERE ARE NO LONGER ANY TRACES OF HUMAN SOULS TO BE FOUND WITHIN PURPLE HOUSE.

WHAT!?

IN OTHER WORDS...

INDEED. LORD DERRICK AND THE FOUR OTHER STUDENTS WHO WERE TO HAVE CONFINED THEMSELVES IN PURPLE HOUSE ARE NOT PRESENT.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT EVERY RESIDENT HAS ALREADY EVACUATED THE BUILDING?

...DERRICK WASN'T IN PURPLE HOUSE TO BEGIN WITH!?
VIOLET!!
IS EVERY-ONE ALL RIGHT!?
WAAAH!
ワアア…
EVERYONE'S HERE.
GYU (TUG)
YES.

THE P4 IS CLEARLY CONCEALING SOMETHING HAVING TO DO WITH LORD DERRICK AND THE FOUR OTHER STUDENTS.
THIS IS ALL... TURNING OUT VERY STRANGE INDEED.
(FWOOOM)
QUITE.
!!
SHU (SHOOM)
IF DERRICK ISN'T HERE, TAKING THIS ANY FURTHER IS MEANINGLESS!
PUT OUT THE FIRE!
VERY GOOD, SIR.
GREEN HOUSE! WE NEED WATER HERE AT THE DOUBLE, YOU LOT!
(GASP)
NOTIFY THE MASTERS!
BLUE HOUSE! TOP THE OTHER HOUSES AND BRING WATER QUICKLY!
RED HOUSE! DON'T FALL BEHIND NOW!!
EVERYONNE!!
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (STOMP)

IF IT IS WATER YOU SEEK, I HAVE SOME RIGHT HERE!
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
(STOMP)
MISTER MICHAELIS, SIR!?

QUICKLY EXTINGUISH THE FIRE BEFORE IT SPREADS!
HIGGLE-PIANT
WELL DONE I SAY!
UNDER-STOOD!
OH! MY ELEPHANT!
ALL RIGHT!! GREEN HOUSE, FOLLOW ME!
BLUE HOUSE WILL BE HEADING IN TOO!!
YES, SIR !!
RIGHT!

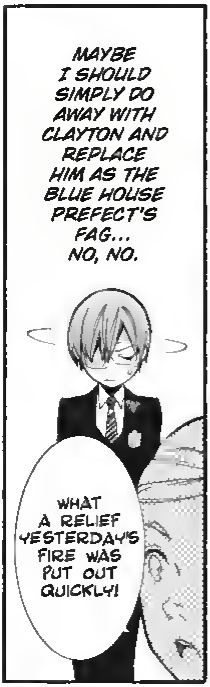
!!

GOOO (FWOOSH)
ゴ!!
オ
オ
D-BUT—
IS THIS TRULY THE TIME TO BE SAYING SUCH A SILLY THING, YOU FOOL!!?

STAY OUT OF PURPLE HOUSE!!

YOU! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE LEADER OF PURPLE HOUSE, ARE YOU NOT!?
YOUR WORTHLESS PRIDE WON'T PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE, YOU KNOW!?
OH HOH?
AND IF YOU CAN'T PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE, THEN YOU'RE A SORRY EXCUSE FOR A LEADER!!
IT'S FINE... LET'S HAVE THEM LEND US A HAND.
CHES-LOCK.
WHY, YOU —! WHO D'YOU THINK YOU'RE FLAPPIN' YER GUMS AT!?

KEEP YOUR MOUTH COVERED WITH CLOTH AT ALL TIMES... DON'T INHALE THE SMOKE.
WAAAAH!
DO NOT GO ABOUT UNWITTINGLY OPENING DOORS. DOING SO CAN CAUSE THE FIRE TO FLARE UP.
THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED, PLEASE COME THIS WAY!
...YES.
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, YOU SODS!
GITRO (GLARE)
ギロ…
I'LL... DEFINITELY RETURN THE FAVOUR! JUST YOU WAIT!!
HEH
HMPH.
OI!
DON'T YOU DRAG YER HEELS, PURPLE HOUSE!
WAAAH!
ワァァ…
.....


MAYBE I SHOULD SIMPLY DO AWAY WITH CLAYTON AND REPLACE HIM AS THE BLUE HOUSE PREFECT'S FAG... NO, NO.
WHAT A RELIEF YESTERDAY'S FIRE WAS PUT OUT QUICKLY!

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE LEFT IS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE HEAD-MASTER.
DERRICK AND THE FOUR OTHER STUDENTS WHO HAVE VANISHED. THE P4'S STUBBORN SILENCE ON THE MATTER.
HOWEVER, ONLY THE P4 AND THEIR FAGS MAY ATTEND THE "MIDNIGHT TEA PARTY" HOSTED BY THE HEAD.

WELL! THERE'S LITTLE HOPE OF BLUE HOUSE WINNING ANYWAY.
BUT IT'S A LEGENDARY WESTON TRADITION, YOU KNOW? IT'LL DEFINITELY GO ON AS PLANNED.
WILL THE CRICKET TOURNAMENT ON THE FOURTH OF JUNE BE CALLED OFF, DO YOU THINK?
BUT THERE ARE RUMOURS THAT IT WAS AN ACT OF ARSON. HOW FRIGHTFUL.

THE HEAD WILL BE ATTENDING THE TOURNAMENT!?
WHAT!?
BA (SHOCK)

MUN (SNORT)
...SO WE MUSTN'T SLACK ON OUR CHEERING!
WORD HAS IT THAT THE HEADMASTER WILL BE ATTENDING THE TOURNAMENT AS WELL...

EH!?
BLUE HOUSE ALWAYS TAKING LAST PLACE, YOU MEAN?
GA (GRAB)
IS THAT REALLY TRUE!?
NO! WHAT YOU SAID AFTER THAT!!

N-NOW, JUST A MINUTE.
AND EVEN IF BLUE HOUSE ALWAYS COMES IN LAST, EVERYONE STILL HAS AN EQUAL CHANCE TO BE INVITED TO THE "MIDNIGHT TEA PARTY"—

THAT'S IT!!
MY IN TO THE TEA PARTY!!

AND IT SEEMS THAT HE EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO THE "MIDNIGHT TEA PARTY" TO THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER, IN COMMENDATION FOR HIS OUTSTANDING EFFORTS DURING THE COURSE OF THE TOURNAMENT.
THE HEADMASTER'S VERY BUSY, BUT HE ALWAYS MAKES A POINT OF ATTENDING THE TOURNAMENT, THEY SAY.

WHAT THE BLAZES!?
IT'S MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO BE CHOSEN AS THAT ONE PLAYER THAN SIMPLY TO TO WIN!
THE HEADMASTER SELECTS THE PLAYER FROM THAT YEAR'S TOURNAMENT WHOSE "PLAY IS MOST BEFITTING OF A GENTLEMAN."
SURE, THE HIGHEST-SCORING BATSMAN FROM THE WINNING HOUSE WAS SELECTED ONE YEAR, BUT THERE WAS ALSO ANOTHER YEAR WHEN A PLAYER FROM THE LAST PLACE HOUSE WAS APPLAUDED FOR HIS SPORTSMAN-SHIP.
THE REASON'S DIFFERENT EVERY YEAR.
BY MOST VALUABLE PLAYER, YOU MEAN A BATSMAN WITH THE MOST RUNS FOR THE WINNING HOUSE OR SOMETHING?
BUT A CRICKET TEAM IS COMPOSED OF ELEVEN PLAYERS, SO JUST GETTING TO BE A HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE IS TOUGH.
IN OTHER WORDS, THAT WAS "PLAY BEFITTING A GENTLEMAN" IN THE EYES OF THE SCHOOL HEAD?
IT'S NEAR IMPOSSIBLE FOR US FIRST-YEARS!
BEING PICKED WILL BE NO SMALL FEAT...
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I HAVE NO APTITUDE FOR SPORT.
...WAS A PLAYER WHO SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO PROTECT A SPECTATOR ABOUT TO BE HIT BY AN ERRANT BALL.
FOR EXAMPLE, I HEARD THAT THE BOY INVITED TO THE TEA PARTY THE YEAR BEFORE LAST...
CLAYTONNN!!!

PHANTOMHIVE!
NOW WHAT TO DO...?
PI
CHUCKO
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS!!
YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS A PLAYER IN THE INTER-HOUSE CRICKET TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON THE FOURTH OF JUNE!
EEH!?
I-IS THAT REALLY TRUE!?
MM-HMM!
I-I AM DEEPLY HON-OURED!
BUT... WHY ME?

YOUR CONSTITUTION IS INDEED POOR, BUT YOU EXPOSED THE IMPROPRIETIES OF MAURICE COLE WITH INTELLECT AND PLUCK. I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL PROVE AN ASSET TO THE TEAM.
OUR HOUSE EXCELS IN YIELDING STRATEGIC PLAYERS, UNLIKE THE IMBECILES FROM THE OTHER HOUSES, WHO HAVE MUSCLES FOR BRAINS.

!!
MISTER MICHAELIS.

EH?
—IS WHAT THE PERSON WHO STRONGLY RECOMMENDED YOU HAD TO SAY.

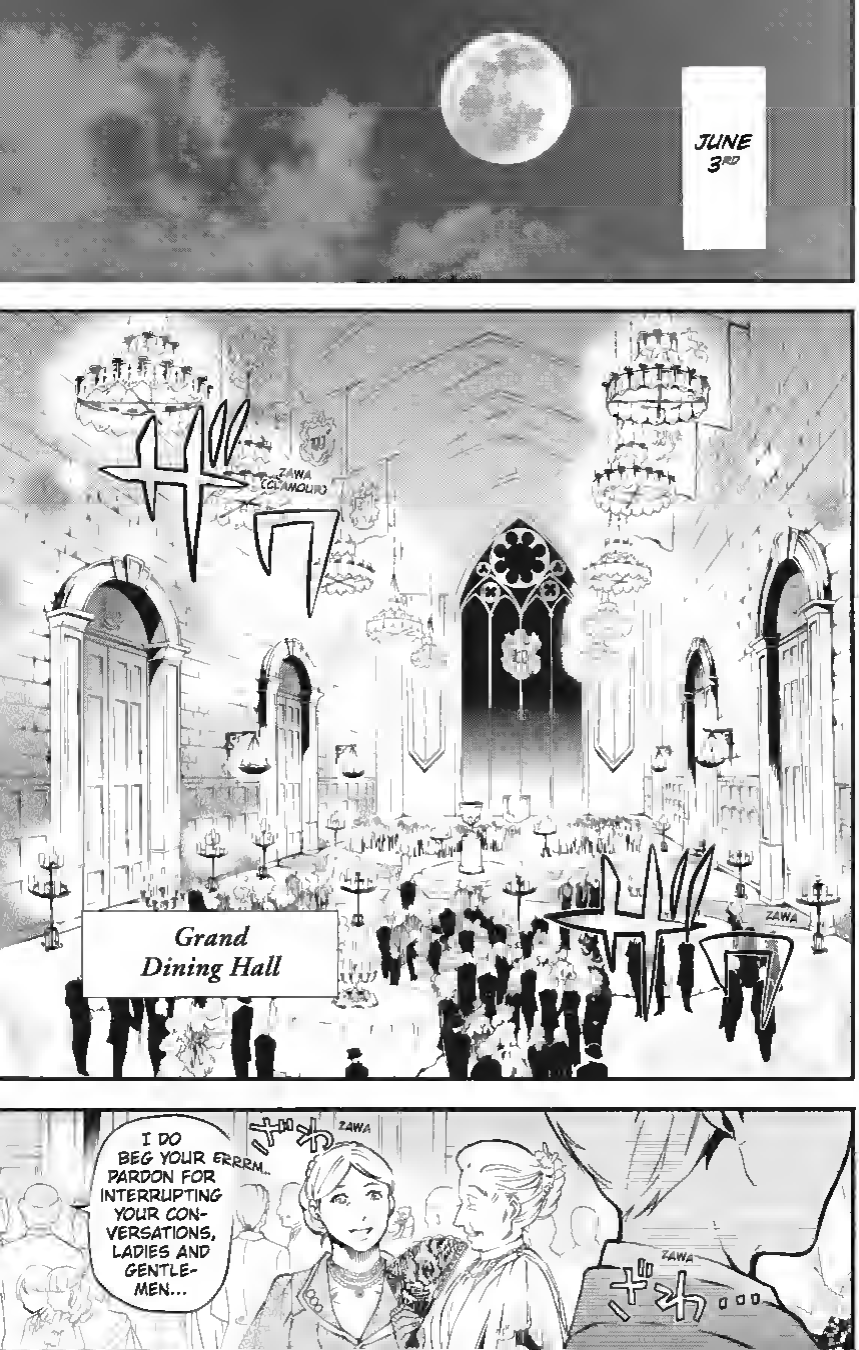
YES! I'LL GO SEE HIM RIGHT NOW!
MAKE SURE TO THANK HIM.
TA (DASH)

I'M LOATH TO COMPLIMENT YOU, BUT YOU'VE ASSISTED ME IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE!
WELL DONE, SEBASTIAN!
I SEE. IT WAS MISTER MICHAELIS, WAS IT ...!?

GUESS THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER WAY.
TCH. THERE ARE PEOPLE ALL AROUND HIM.
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA
TA (TMP)
MISTER MICHAELIS.
TA TA TA
PYON (HOP)
THANK YOU FOR RECOM-MENDING ME TO THE TEAM!!
I'M SORRY, SIR! BUT I WANTED TO THANK YOU RIGHT AWAY!
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO THANK ME.
NOW LOOK HERE!
PHANTOMHIVE, YOU MUST NOT RUN IN THE HALLS.

I HAVE SO MANY THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE THE TOURNA-MENT!
I WILL ASSIST YOU, IF YOU SO WISH.
YOU WILL!?
OF COURSE.
ONCE I HAVE CHECKED THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED ALL YOUR ASSIGN-MENTS, THAT IS.
FOR I BELIEVE YOU HAVE IT IN YOU TO SHOW US SOME TRULY WONDERFUL PLAY.
YES, SIR!
AFTER ALL, I AM MERELY...
...A TUTOR.
SO LONG AS THERE IS NO EXACT CRITERIA, BEING SINGLED OUT FROM ALL THE STUDENTS WILL BE NO SMALL FEAT.
BUT...
WHICH OF THESE WILL BEAR THE MOST WEIGHT IN THE SELECTION PROCESS IS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THE HEAD-MASTER'S WHIM...
THE OUTCOME OF THE TOURNAMENT, A PLAYER'S INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS, PLAY THAT BEFITS A GENTLE-MAN...

ALL WILL BE PERFECT IF I SCORE, MAKE BLUE HOUSE VICTORIOUS, AND MOVE EVERYONE TO TEARS IN THE PROCESS!!!
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET MYSELF A SEAT AT THE "MIDNIGHT TEA PARTY"!!
I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FOURTH OF JUNE.
HEH.


JUNE 3RD
ZAWA (GLAMOUR)
ZAWA
Grand Dining Hall
I DO BEG YOUR PARDON FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR CONVERSATIONS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
ERRRM..
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA...

HELLO, EVERY-ONE.
I WELCOME YOU ALL AND THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF OUR STORIED FOURTH OF JUNE CRICKET TOURNAMENT.

I AM DELIGHTED TO ONCE AGAIN BE ABLE TO HOLD THE TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR.
PLEASE ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES THIS TOUR-NAMENT'S EVE.

AHEM!
—NOW THEN.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH HOUSE, COME FORTH!!
BA (WHAP)
DON (WHAM)
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON!?
THE FLOOR, IT'S SHAKING!?
DON
H-HERE THEY COME!!
DON
DO (BOOM)
THEIR OVERWHELMING PHYSICAL PROWESS AND TEAMWORK ARE SECOND TO NONE!!
BAN (SLAM)

DON CRAMO
ABSOLUTE CHAMPIONS, TOP OF THE WORLD!
THE GREEN LIONS!!

ZA (MARCH)
WAAAAA (CHEEER)
Scarlet Fox
FUAAAAAA (FWOOSH)
IT'S THE SECOND-PLACE HOUSE THAT DROVE GREEN HOUSE INTO A CORNER LAST YEAR!
L-LOOK!
CAPTIVATING SPECTATORS WITH THEIR ELEGANT PLAYS...
BIIIIIG BROTHER!! YOU LOOK TERRIBLY HAND-SOOOME!
PERE (FLUSH)
HUH (FLUTTER)

BRILLIANT EDEN, A GARDEN OF FINE PLAYS!
THE SCARLET FOXES!!
FWASAA (FLOAT)

キャアアア!
KYAAAA (SQUEAL)
GO (RUMBLE)
ゴゴゴ
GO
alet Wolf
C-COULD THIS BE...
...THE HOUSE TEAM THEY SAY THROWS THEIR OPPONENTS INTO CONFUSION WITH UNPREDICTABLY TRICKY PLAYS?
HALAN (SWOOOON)
FU (FLICK)
BO (WOOM)

ZORDO (SHUFFLE)
THE SWARMING SPECTRES OF THE GHOST LEGION.
THE VIOLET WOLVES !!

キャアアアア
GYAAAAA (SHRIEK)
THOUGH THEIR PHYSICAL STRENGTH MAY LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED...
...THEY AIM FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP WITH THEIR STRATEGIC GAME PLANS...
ZAWA ZAWAZAWA ZAWA
ざわざわ
THEY'RE AT THEIR TRICKS FROM THE START, WHAT WITH NOT COMING IN THROUGH THE DOORS...
PIIII (PWEEE)
THOSE BIRDS ARE...
THAT HOUSE, IS IT?
Peaceful Owl
GIIII (CREEAK)

ATTACK OF THE CORNERED RATS, GOD ONLY KNOWS.
THE SAPPHIRE OWLS.
BASH (FLAP)

PACH!
PACH!
PACH!
PACH CCLAP
SFX: ZAWA (MURMUR) ZAWA
GIRI! (GRIT)
HEH!
ざわ KAAA (MURMUR) ざわ
ざわ
JUN
KYAAAH!
CIEL, YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY CHARMIIIING! GIVE IT YOUR BESTTTT!!
JUN (WAVE)
ざわ
CAN'T EXPECT ANYTHING ELSE FROM THE HOUSE THAT COMES IN LAST PLACE EVERY YEAR, I SUPPOSE. OUR ENTRANCE AND THE CROWD RESPONSE ARE FAR TOO PLAIN!
T-TALK ABOUT TEPID...!
ZA (STAND)

NOW LIGHT THE FLAME OF SAINT GEORGE!
WE, THE PLAYERS...
...IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GREAT TRADITION OF WESTON COLLEGE...
...SHALL FIGHT FAIR AND SQUARE UNTIL THE VERY END.
THIS WE DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR.

BO
(FWOOM)
(CHEEP)

NOW...
...I DO HEREBY DECLARE OPEN...
WAAAA
...THE INTER-HOUSE CRICKET TOURNA-MENT OF 1889!

Black Butler

Chapter 75

In the afternoon : The Butler, Confabulating

TOMORROW WILL SURELY BE A DAY OF FIERCE BATTLES.
SO PLEASE ENJOY THIS EVENING'S OPENING FESTIVITIES TO YOUR HEARTS' CONTENT.

PACHI
PACHI
PACHI (CLAP)

ざわ ざわ (MURMUR)
ZAWA
V-VICE HEAD-MASTER!!?
DOKU (HEART)
ドク DOKU
FORGIVE ME, FORGIVE ME, FORGIVE ME.

ZUZAAA (SLIIIDE)
BOKO (BONK)
DO (THUD)
GAI (CRIED)
ドド
ボコッ
ズザァァァ

GOOOO (RUMBLE)

IF YOU DON'T FILL YOUR BELLIES, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP THE FIGHT THROUGH TO THE FINAL!
SO EAT UP! AND THEN EAT SOME MORE!!
DOROOON (GLOOM)
YEP, YEP!!
MOGU
MOGU (MUNCH)

PON (PAT)
DON'T BE SUCH A BORE. LET DOWN YOUR HAIR A LITTLE AT TONIGHT'S PARTY, WHY DON'T YOU?

BLUE HOUSE, WE WILL HOLD A MEETING TO PERFECT OUR STRATEGY!
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE EVEN A MINUTE.
UNDER-STOOD!

HMPH... WHAT A VERY RELAXED BUNCH.

THE LITTLE BOY WHO WOULD ALWAYS PLAY HOUSE WITH ME HAS GROWN UP TO BE A PREFECT. HOW PERFECTLY NOVEL!
U FU FU!
BIG SIS-TER!!

ZURA (CROWD)
B-BIG SISTER!?
LOOK AT YOU ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY WHEN YOU'RE THE EXACT OPPOSITE AT HOME!
LET IT DOWN! LET YOUR HAIR DOWWWN!

WAA
わぁ
わぁ
WAA
THIS IS JUST LIKE VIOLET'S PAINTING.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, THIS SITUATION IS QUITE MAD.

BOOOZEN (CALLED)
PLEASE STOP WITH THE UNNECESSARY COMMENTARY, AND GO OVER THERE, WOULD YOU!?
HEYYY!
HEYYY!
BIG BROTHER, WHERE'S LORD EDGAR!?
NOW JUST A MINUTE, LAWRIE! "UNNECES-SARY"!? HOW DARE YOU!?
AH, HOW DO YOU DO, EVERYONE? THANK YOU FOR TREATING OUR LITTLE BROTHER KINDLY.
HOW DARE YOU!? HOW DARE YOOOOOU!?
WAA
わぁ
WAA (CHATTER)

OH?
AND YOU MUST BE YOUNG PHANTOMHIVE, HMM?
THE EXTREMELY TALENTED FIRSTFORMER MY LITTLE BROTHER MENTIONED IN HIS LETTERS HOME.
YOU'RE TOO KIND...
MY, YOU'RE RATHER CHARMING, AREN'T YOOOU?
NYORUN (ZOOM)
HE HAS A GOOD FACE, A GOOD BRAIN, AND A GOOD FAMILY.
WHY, HE'S IDEAL.
ERM ...?
WHAT DO YOU SAY? WON'T YOU HAVE OUR LITTLE SISTER FOR YOUR WIFE, HMMMM?
HUNH!?
STOP IT, SISTER!
WHY IS YOUR FACE ALL FLUSHED!?
YOU'RE BEING MOST IMPROPER, ADELA.
NO, UM...
CIEL!!

CIEL, YOU LITTLE...! WHEN YOU HAVE A CERTAIN SOMEONE CALLED LIZZIE AL*X%O$#@ FDSASDF!!
GAHH
GAH! (SHAKE)
KEEP! (SQUEEZE)
...ELIZA-BETH!
...BRIDE-TO-BE...
I AM CIEL'S...
PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE, EVERY-ONE!

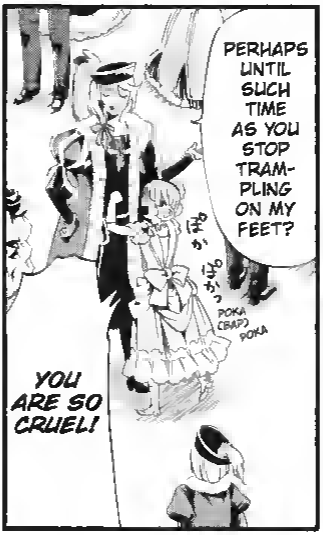
AH!
NO CHIJAMO
EDWARD, STOP THAT!
ALL THE GOOD MEN DO, DON'T THEY? COME WITH FIANCÉES, THAT IS
SHEESH!
AWW. SO HE HAS A FIANCÉE, AFTER ALL.
CIEL! THAT STRANGE HAT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!
AH HA HA HA!
GOOD-NESS!
THEY MUST BE THE SISTERS WE'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT.
BLUE HOUSE IS BOISTER-OUS AS ALWAYS.
HM? BIG BROTHER?
SFX: GUDEN (LIMP)

CRICKET, INTRODUCED BY THE BRITISH, IS ALL THE RAGE IN INDIA.
WHY, I EVEN ASSEMBLED MY OWN TEAM AT THE ROYAL PALACE!
HOHHH.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE CHOSEN TO PLAY FOR YOUR HOUSE...
NATURALLY!!
HMMM- HMMPH!

KADAR IS A DEFT HAND AT CRICKET, YOU KNOW!

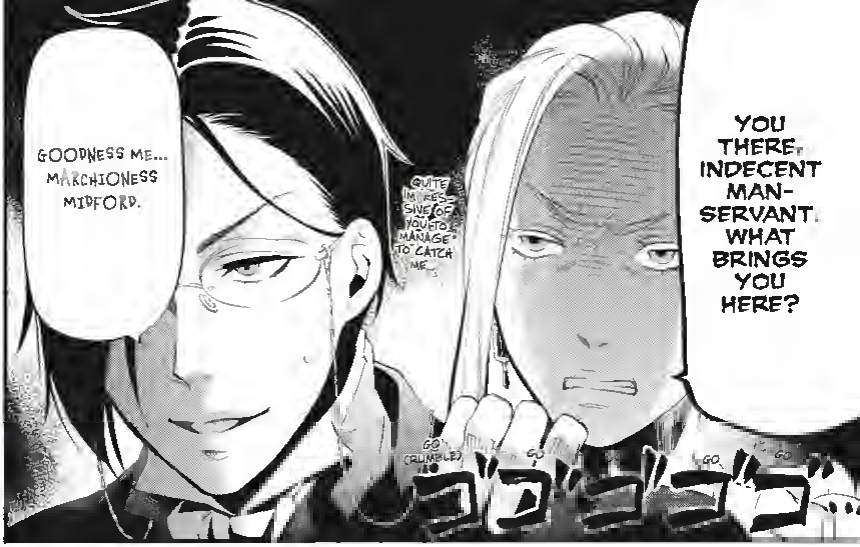
WHAT FOUL WORDS TO FLING AT A FAIR LADY, EDGAR!

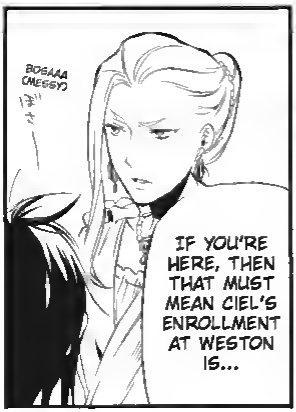

PERHAPS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU STOP TRAMPLING ON MY FEET?
ぽか
ぽかっ
POKA (BAP) POKA
YOU ARE SO CRUEL!

HOW LONG MUST I WAIT BEFORE YOU ASK ME TO DANCE!?
AH! LORD EDGAR!

UNCLE ALEISTER —!
KYAAH!
VISCOUNT OF DRUITT, MY LORD!
HAVE MY TEACHINGS ESCAPED YOU, DEAR NEPHEW!?
GRR
NON!!
DO NOT CALL ME UNCLE!
THE FRESH SPRINGTIME OF MY YOUTH, LIKE ROSES MOIST WITH MORNING DEW, WASHES OVER ME AS IF IT WERE ONLY YESTERDAY.
AAH... MY BELOVED ALMA MATER!
I COULDN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT REDMOND REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE, BUT...
...TO THINK IT WAS HIM —!!
OWAWAWAWA (PRICKLE)

I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO LIKE GAUDY MEN LIKE HIM!!
KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO
AND HE'S A GRADUATE OF THIS SCHOOL TO BOOT...
WAI (CHATTER)
WAI
MY, MY.
SU (SNIF)
BETTER TO KEEP MY DISTANCE, I DARESAY.
A MOST TROUBLE-SOME BUNCH HAS GATHERED IN ONE PLACE.
GASHI (CLAMP)

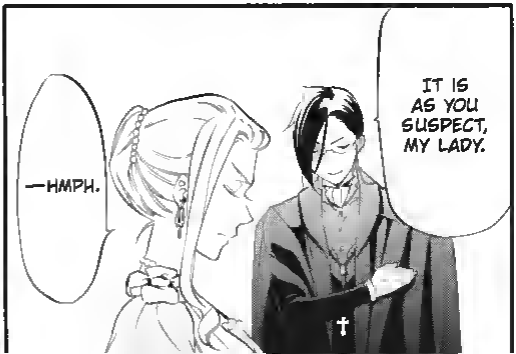

GOODNESS ME... MARCHIONESS MIDFORD.
(QUITE IMPRESSIVE FOR YOU TO MANAGE TO CATCH ME.)
YOU THERE, INDECENT MAN-SERVANT. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
GO (RUMBLE)
ゴゴゴゴゴ
GO
GO
GO


BIOAAA (MESSY)
IF YOU'RE HERE, THEN THAT MUST MEAN CIEL'S ENROLLMENT AT WESTON IS...

PA (RELEASE)
HMPH. NO MATTER.

GA (GRAB)
JUST LOOK AT YOU!
WHAT HOUSE-MASTER IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD GO AROUND IN SO DIS-SIPATED A GUISE AS THIS!!?
HM

OH? WHY, IF IT ISN'T SEBA—


—HMPH.
IT IS AS YOU SUSPECT, MY LADY.

OH? WHO IS THAT CHAP, MOTHER?
SIR, ARE YOU ACQUAINTED WITH MY MATER?
!
SHH
HAPPY CHAPPY!
IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE, GENTLEMEN.
THAT TUTOR IS...
OH, REALLY NOW, YOU TWO!

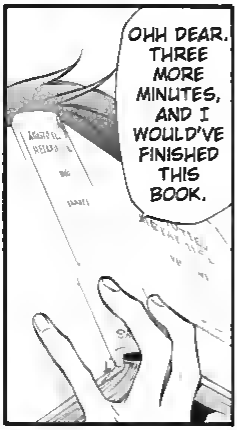
DON'T COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY THAT LIKE IT'S SOME KIND OF GIVEN.
WELL, WHEN LIZZIE'S AROUND, EVERY-ONE ELSE FADES INTO THE BACK-GROUND, DON'T THEY?
BOYAA (ぼやぁ)
BOYA (HAZY) (ぼや)
EDWARD'S VENUS VISION
PON (SMACK)
YOU MEAN YOU HADN'T ACTUALLY NOTICED AND WEREN'T KEEPING QUIET ABOUT IT THIS WHOLE TIME!?
ME NEITHER.
OHH! I DIDN'T REALISE AT ALL.
HMPH!
THEN THAT'S JUST WHAT I'LL BE DOING!
CAN'T SAY IT DOESN'T, BUT YOU CAN HAVE AT IT WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THAT.
DOES YOUR WORK HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH TOMOR-ROW'S MATCHES —?
SFX: MUGYU (SQUEEZE)
NGAH!!
R-RIGHT.
I'LL CHEER MY HEART OUT FOR YOOOOU, SO MAKE SURE YOU COME BACK VICTORIOUS!

Alumnus of Weston College
BLUE HOUSE DID ONCE WIN THE TOURNAMENT A LONG TIME AGO.
OH, BUT IT DOES.
HMPH! YOU TALK AS IF THE PERENNIALLY LAST PLACE BLUE HOUSE HAS EVEN A HOPE OF WINNING!
GRRR
A-ARE YOU PERHAPS TALKING ABOUT...
NIYA (POP)
...THE "MIRACLE OF SAPPHIRES"!?
WAH!
VERY WELL, YOUNG MAN!
IT WAS BACK WHEN I TOO RESIDED IN GREEN HOUSE AND WAS THE PREFECT'S FAG, JUST LIKE ED—
BUN
BUN (SHAKE)
BUN
OH!
I'M MCMILLAN, PHANTOM-HIVE'S BEST FRIEND.
BEST FRIEND...?
OH, WON'T YOU TELL US THE STORY, MARQUESS!?

GARAAN (CLAAANG)
GARAAN
WHY, THAT LITTLE —!
HE'S GOT ANOTHER THING COMING IF HE THINKS HE CAN GET AWAY WITH IT THIS TIME!!
WHAT SORT OF PREFECT NEGLECTS PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH OF JUNE!?
HOW CAN I BE CALM IN THE FACE OF THIS, MIDFORD!?
PLEASE DO CALM DOWN!

!
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ
FIRST OF ALL, HE'S...
ZAWA
ざわ


OHH DEAR. THREE MORE MINUTES, AND I WOULD'VE FINISHED THIS BOOK.

HEY, WAKE UP!!
MOLE!!
ZA (STEP)

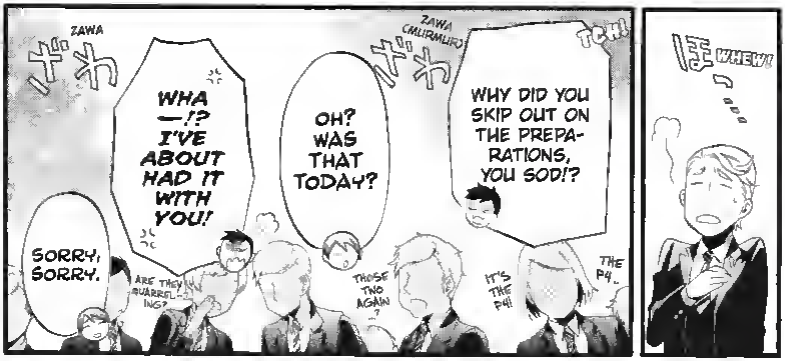
IKTAN (SHUT)
MOREOVER, MY NAME ISN'T MOLE.

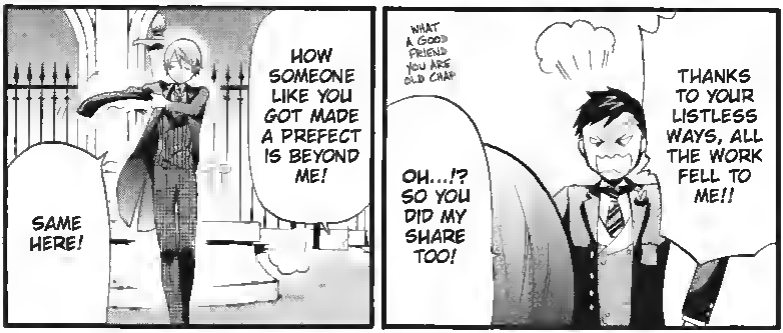
DON'T GET SO WORKED UP, DIEDRICH.
むくっ MUKU (RISE)
WE PREFECTS AREN'T ALLOWED ON THE LAWN JUST TO TAKE AFTERNOON NAPS, YOU KNOW!

IT'S VINCENT PHANTOM-HIVE.
DON'T ADDRESS ME BY MY FIRST NAME!
IT IS AGAINST SCHOOL RULES!
FROM ITS BREAD TO ITS COUNTRY-MEN, GERMANY CERTAINLY IS THE LAND OF THE RIGID.
PAN (SNAP)
KA (GLARE)
HOW DARE YOU ...!?

DO (WHACK)
WAI...
BA (SWING)
I WON'T STAND HERE AND ENDURE YOUR INSULTS!!

GNNH ...!
I SAY! WHAT A RATHER LARGE BOOK-MARK.


ZAWA
ざわ
WHA—!? I'VE ABOUT HAD IT WITH YOU!
SORRY, SORRY.
ARE THEY QUARREL-ING?
ZAWA CHUPAMURO
ざわ
OH? WAS THAT TODAY?
THOSE TWO AGAIN?
TCH!!
WHY DID YOU SKIP OUT ON THE PREPA-RATIONS, YOU SOD!?
IT'S THE PH!
THE PH..
ほっ WHEW!!


HOW SOMEONE LIKE YOU GOT MADE A PREFECT IS BEYOND ME!
SAME HERE!
WHAT A GOOD FRIEND YOU ARE OLD CHAP
OH...!? SO YOU DID MY SHARE TOO!
THANKS TO YOUR LISTLESS WAYS, ALL THE WORK FELL TO ME!!

PIKU (TWITCH)
A PREFECT LIKE YOU SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE LEVEL OF YOUR HOUSE RESIDENTS.
A COMMANDING OFFICER IS THE EMBODIMENT OF HIS COMPANY.
THUS, THOSE WHO OBEY A PREFECT OF YOUR ILK CAN ONLY AMOUNT TO SO MUCH... OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY, SO LITTLE.
SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE ABOUT ME...
...BUT WON'T YOU SPARE THE OTHER BLUE HOUSE RESIDENTS YOUR SCORN?
ZAA (RUSTLE)

WE'LL BET ON WHICH HOUSE WILL WIN THE FOURTH OF JUNE CRICKET TOURNAMENT.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO THAT FAR, LET'S MAKE A RIGHT GAME OF IT.
WHAT?

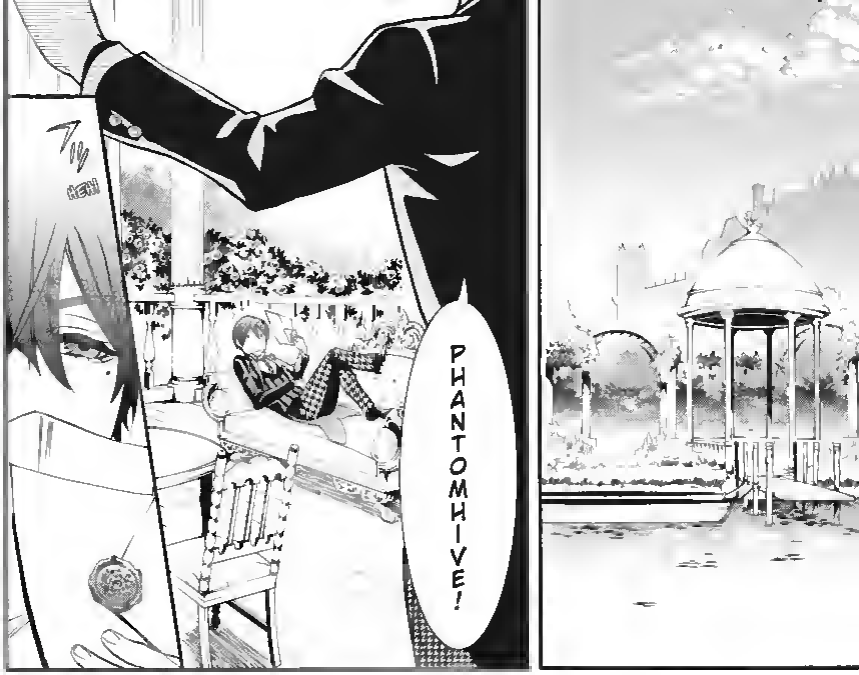
WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?

AND THE LOSER MUST COMPLY WITH ANY ONE DEMAND MADE BY THE WINNER.

HOW CAN GREEN HOUSE POSSIBLY LOSE TO THE HOUSE THAT ALWAYS COMES IN LAST!!?
WHAT ARE YOU —!?
.....
FINE.
WELL, IN THAT CASE, I'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING TOO.
IF GREEN HOUSE WINS, I'LL HAVE YOU RESIGN FROM YOUR POSITION AS PREFECT.
IS THAT REALLY ALL?
NOT TERRIBLY GREEDY OF YOU.

MY SENTI-MENTS EXACTLY.
YOU HAD BETTER KEEP YOUR WORD!
WAAAA (CHEER)
DON (THUD)

NO...
HOW COULD I—
HOW COULD GREEN HOUSE —!!?
HOW COULD WE LOSE TO BLUE HOUSE —!!?
WAAAAA
WE DID IIIT —!!
WAAAAA
BLUE HOUSE'S FIRST EVER CHAM-PION-SHIP IN HISTORY !!!

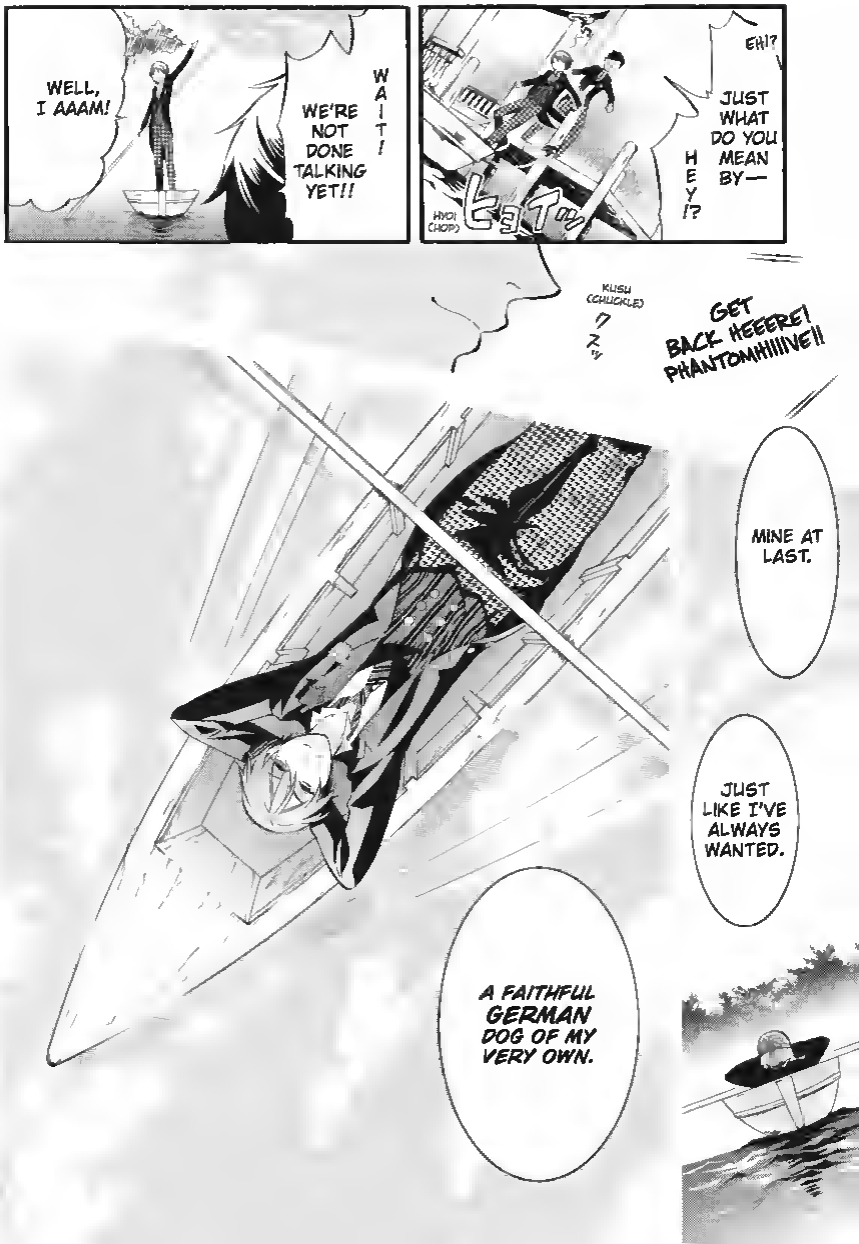

(HEH)
PHANTOMHIVE!

SO, AS PROMISED, I WILL COMPLY WITH YOUR ONE DEMAND.
WE WERE SOUNDLY BEATEN.

...DIEDRICH?
FINALLY RECALLED MY NAME, EH...

WELL, THEN I ONLY ASK THIS OF YOU...
SU (SNIF)
WE DID SAY SOME-THING OF THE SORT, DIDN'T WE?

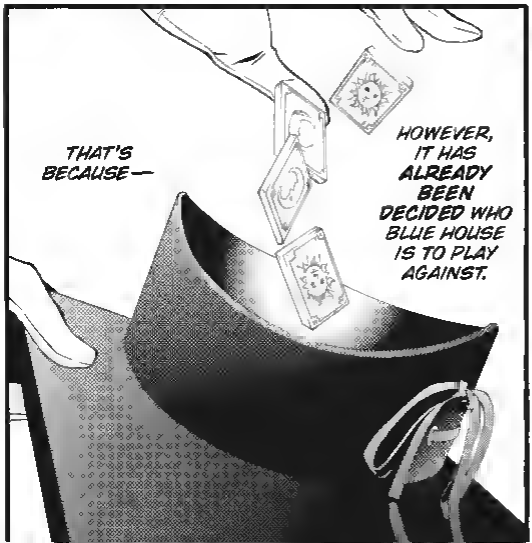
BECOME MY FAG.
HUNH?
WH—
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M IN GREEN HOUSE, AND YOU'RE IN BLUE HOUSE. BESIDES WHICH, I'M ALREADY A PREFECT, YOU KNOW!?
TRADITION'S TRADITION. A PROMISE IS A PROMISE.
I DID WIN, AFTER ALL, DIDN'T I?
URGH ...!
H-HOW MANY MONTHS DO YOU THINK WE HAVE LEFT UNTIL GRADUATION —!?
OH, DEAR —!
I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THIS BEING ONLY UNTIL WE GRADUATE?
HA HA!
SO FROM NOW ON, WHENEVER I CALL FOR YOU, YOU MUST FLY TO MY SIDE WHEREVER YOU ARE.
NO MATTER WHAT!


WELL, I AAAM!
WAIT! WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING YET!!
EH!?
JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY—
HEY!?
HYOI (HOP!)
KUSU (CHUCKLE)
GET BACK HEEERE! PHANTOMHIIIIVE!!
MINE AT LAST.
JUST LIKE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED.
A FAITHFUL GERMAN DOG OF MY VERY OWN.

JUST LOOK AT HOW MUCH THOSE TWO HAVE OPENED UP TO EACH OTHER...
HORORI (MOVED)
ホロリ
WAAAAAIT!!!
BASHA
YOU'RE RUINING THE MOOD, DIEEE!
AH HA HA HA!
BASHA (SPLASH)
HE'S YOUNGER THAN UNCLE VINCENT ...?
EH...?
FATHER WAS A FAG...?
ZAWA (MUMMUR)
AHH... YOU DIDN'T KNOW YET, HM, CIEL?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR DAD WAS A KEY PLAYER IN THE "MIRACLE OF SAPPHIRES"!!
TH-THE PREVIOUS EARL WAS IN BLUE HOUSE?
WHOOA!
HAVE FAITH IN YOURSELF AND GIVE IT YOUR BEST.
YOU HAVE THE BLOOD OF A GENIUS GAME STRATEGIST IN YOUR VEINS.
IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS, BUT WE WERE UTTERLY CLOBBERED!
IT WAS A TRULY BRILLIANT GAME.

WE WILL NOW DRAW LOTS TO DECIDE THE TOURNAMENT FIXTURES.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
OH! SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO BEGIN!
ZAWA ざわ
ZAWA CHUUMURO ざわ

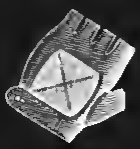
...THE OPPOSING TEAMS ARE FAIRLY DETERMINED BY DRAWING LOTS.
IN KEEPING WITH THE TRADITION OF WESTON COLLEGE...


THAT'S BECAUSE—
HOWEVER, IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED WHO BLUE HOUSE IS TO PLAY AGAINST.

YOU THERE. LEND ME YOUR HAT.

ZA (GATHER)
NOW THEN, ALL HOUSE-MASTERS—
COME FORWARD TO DRAW THE LOTS!
A "PRELIMINARY" CELEBRATION, WAS IT?
DON'T BE DAFT.
I CAN TRUST SEBASTIAN TO DO HIS JOB.
THE "MIRACLE OF SAPPHIRES"?
WHAT A JOKE.
WE WILL NOW ANNOUNCE THE TEAMS FOR THE FIRST FIXTURE!
THE GAME'S ALREADY BEGUN!!

WAAA (CHEER)
I DON'T BELIEVE IN MIRACLES.
ZA
ZA (STRIDE)
ZA (CROWD)
SO I'LL SNATCH UP THE VICTORY BY FORCE!



Black Butler

CHAPTER 76

At night : The Butler, Scheming

Black Butler

ZA (GATHER)
WELL THEN, THE FIRST MATCH OF THE INTERHOUSE CRICKET TOURNAMENT—
—THE SAPPHIRE OWLS OF BLUE HOUSE VS. THE SCARLET FOXES OF RED HOUSE—
—WILL NOW BEGIN!
WHAT UNFORTUNATE LUCK FOR YOU TO BE PITTED AGAINST RED HOUSE AT THE OUTSET, LAWRENCE.
HMPH.
I MAY LOSE TO YOU IN CHESS, BUT I WON'T LOSE AT CRICKET!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

IN THIS TOURNAMENT, EACH MATCH WILL CONSIST OF TWO INNINGS OF TWENTY OVERS MAXIMUM!
RIGHT!
RED HOUSE FIELDS FIRST! BLUE HOUSE, CHANGE INTO YOUR VESTS.
DIN (TING)
ワアアア
WAAAA (CHEER)
PLAY!
WHEN-EVER YOU'RE READY.
SOMA ASMAN KADAR. I'M A RIGHT ARM.
PASH! (THWAP)

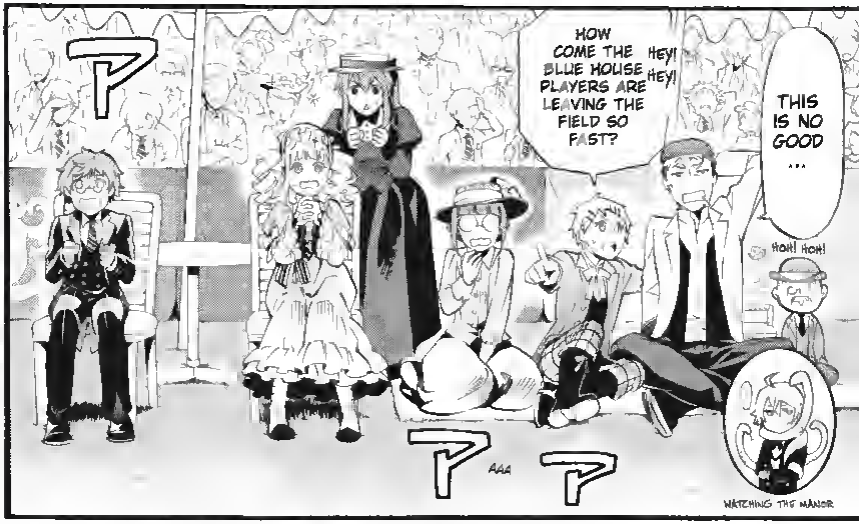
BLUE HOUSE!
BLUE HOUSE!
WAAAA
GO GET 'EM, HOUSE CAPTAIIIN!!
A SHOW-DOWN BETWEEN THE ELEPHANT PRINCE AND THE PY RIGHT OFF!?
ZA (SKSH)
HERE I COME!
SYU (WHIZ)
WHAT VELOCITY !!!

BAKAAN (CRACK)
AAH!
KUH ...!
SPORTS JUST AREN'T OUR CUP OF TEA, AFTER ALLL!
WAAAH!
BOWLED OUT ALREADY !?
OUT!
COME ON THEN, KADAR!
GURU (TWIRL)
GURU (TWIRL)
HE'S... AS SKILLED AT CRICKET AS HE MADE HIMSELF OUT TO BE, IT WOULD SEEM.

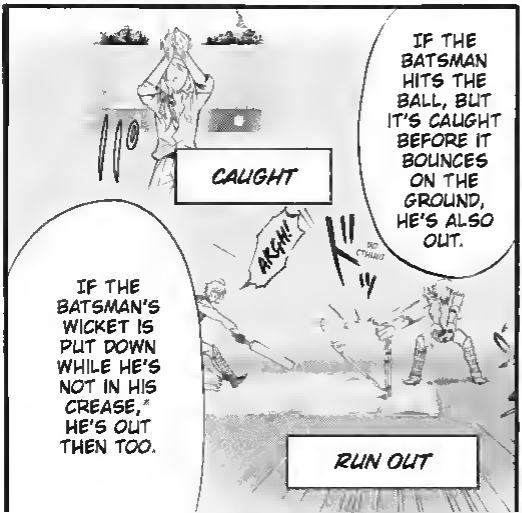
AH!?
GAKO (WHACK)
(WHA...)
HAH!
FELLOWS, IT'S UP IN THE AIR!
KUH! I WAS FORCED TO HIT IT.
PASU (CATCH)

LORD REDDD-MOND! ♡
YOU ARE SO DIVINE!
KYAAAA!!
CHU (KISS) チュ♡
NICE FLY BALL ♡
CAUGHT!!
TWO OUTS!
KYAAAA!!
DAMMIT ...!!
KYAAAA!!
SAY, LET'S PICK UP...
BO (WHOOM)
GYUO (BOUNCE)
...THE PACE!!

WHAT LUCK!
THE BALL FELL!
POTEN (PLOP)
ポテーン
EEP!
GAGO (WHACK)
ゴッ
DA (DASH)
ダダダダ
WAAAA (CHEER)
AH WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH !!
YES!
YES!
AKSH!
DO (THUD)
PAAN (SMACK)
PASHI (WHAP)
BI (WHIZ)

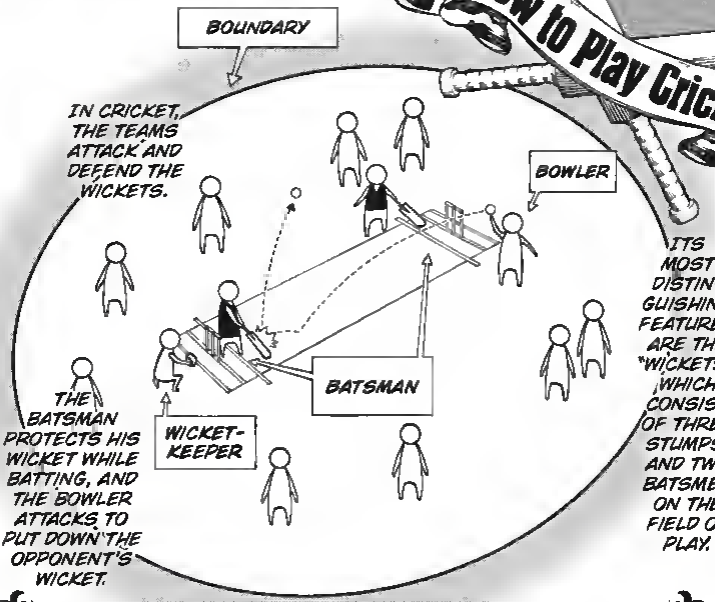


※THE EQUIVALENT OF A BATTER'S BOX IN BASEBALL

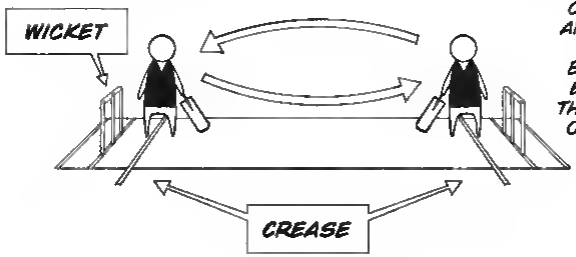

CAUGHT
IF THE BATSMAN HITS THE BALL, BUT IT'S CAUGHT BEFORE IT BOUNCES ON THE GROUND, HE'S ALSO OUT.
IF THE BATSMAN'S WICKET IS PUT DOWN WHILE HE'S NOT IN HIS CREASE,※ HE'S OUT THEN TOO.
AKSH!
RUN OUT

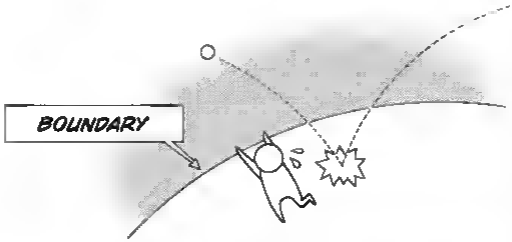
THE YOUNG MASTER AIN'T EVEN PLAYIN' YET!
C'MMEL! GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT! I KNOW YOU CAN DO IIIT!!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE HAVE TO BEAR UP AND CHEER OUR HEARTS OUT!
WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO SAY, MISS MAID!!
JUST HOW PATHETIC A BUNCH OF SISSIES IS BLUE HOUSE MADE UP OF ANYWAY ...?
SO THOSE WERE ALL TERRIBLE PLAYS WE SAW...
UHHHH...
WE MADE THE TRIP HERE TO CHEER FOR THE YOUNG MASTERRRR!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WHY'RE THERE ONLY TWO BLUE HOUSE PLAYERS ON THE FIELD?
CRICKET IS A GAME PLAYED BETWEEN TWO TEAMS OF ELEVEN PLAYERS. SOME SAY BASEBALL'S MODELED ON IT.
ALTHOUGH BASEBALL'S THE MORE MINOR SPORT OUTSIDE MY GOOD OL' U.S. OF A.
EH HEH HEH...
DON'T TELL ME YOU TWO DON'T KNOW THE RULES AT ALL?

How to Play Cricket


BOUNDARY
IN CRICKET, THE TEAMS ATTACK AND DEFEND THE WICKETS.
BOWLER
ITS MOST DISTINGUISHING FEATURES ARE THE "WICKETS," WHICH CONSIST OF THREE STUMPS, AND TWO BATSMEN ON THE FIELD OF PLAY.
BATSMAN
WICKET-KEEPER
THE BATSMAN PROTECTS HIS WICKET WHILE BATTING, AND THE BOWLER ATTACKS TO PUT DOWN THE OPPONENT'S WICKET.

TO SCORE, THE TWO BATSMEN MUST RUN BETWEEN THE WICKETS TO THEIR OPPOSITE CREASES AFTER THE BALL'S BEEN HIT, EARNING THEIR TEAM ONE RUN.



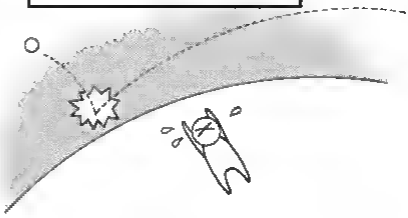


ON TOP OF THAT, IF THE BATTED BALL TOUCHES OR CROSSES THE BOUNDARY AFTER BOUNCING, THE BATTING TEAM SCORES FOUR RUNS.

BOUNDARY FOUR

IF THE BALL PASSES OVER THE BOUNDARY WITHOUT BOUNCING, THE BATTING TEAM SCORES SIX RUNS.

WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A HOME RUN.



BOUNDARY SIX

ONE INNINGS EQUALS TEN OUTS, OR DISMISSALS. THEN THE BATTING AND FIELDING TEAMS SWITCH.

UNLIKE BASEBALL, ONE INNINGS TAKES A LONG TIME TO PLAY. IN TRADITIONAL CRICKET, A MATCH CONSISTS OF TWO INNINGS EACH AND TAKES ABOUT FIVE DAYS TO FINISH.

ONE OVER

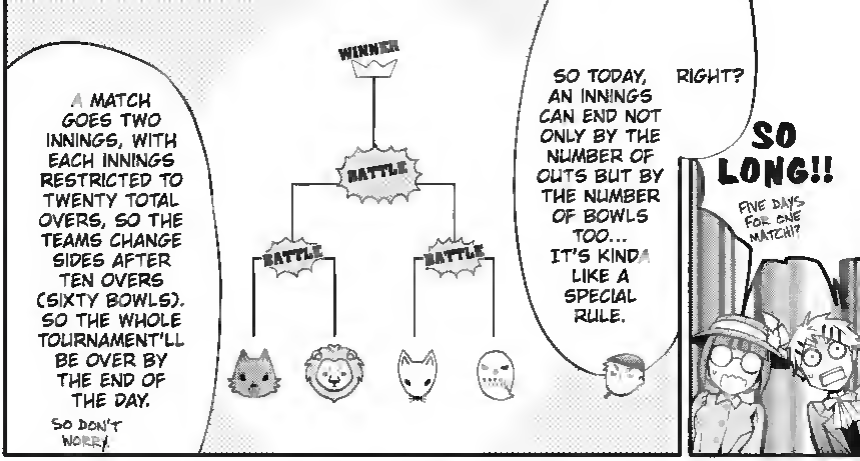
× SIX BOWLS

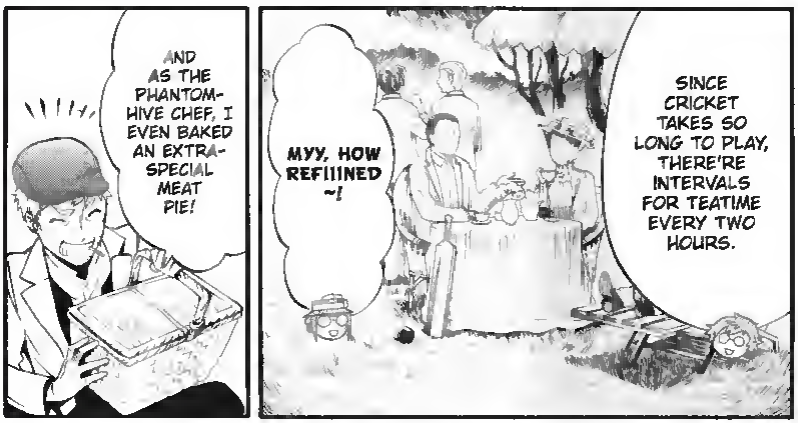
ONE INNINGS

× TEN OUTS

WHEN A BOWLER HAS BOWLED SIX TIMES, ANOTHER BOWLER TAKES OVER. THIS IS CALLED AN "OVER."

ON THE OTHER HAND, A BATSMAN CAN CONTINUE HITTING UNTIL HE IS OUT.


A MATCH GOES TWO INNINGS, WITH EACH INNINGS RESTRICTED TO TWENTY TOTAL OVERS, SO THE TEAMS CHANGE SIDES AFTER TEN OVERS (SIXTY BOWLS). SO THE WHOLE TOURNAMENT'LL BE OVER BY THE END OF THE DAY.
SO DON'T WORRY.
WINNER
BATTLE
BATTLE
BATTLE
SO TODAY, AN INNINGS CAN END NOT ONLY BY THE NUMBER OF OUTS BUT BY THE NUMBER OF BOWLS TOO... IT'S KINDA LIKE A SPECIAL RULE.
RIGHT?
SO LONG!!
FIVE DAYS FOR ONE MATCH!?


AND AS THE PHANTOM-HIVE CHEF, I EVEN BAKED AN EXTRA-SPECIAL MEAT PIE!
MYY, HOW REFIIINED ~!
SINCE CRICKET TAKES SO LONG TO PLAY, THERE'RE INTERVALS FOR TEATIME EVERY TWO HOURS.

E-EEK!!
SEE!?

OH, DEAR ME.
AH BAH BAH BAH BAH
WHAT DO WE DO?!
SO HALF IN THERE FULL-LAUGH!
WHAT IS THAT LOT GETTING UP TO OVER THERE, I WONDER ...?
POISON!?
THE PHANTOM-HIVES POISONED THE MID-FORDS!!
TH-THIS IS...
IF LADY ELIZABETH EATS THIS...
GOGGA GYOGGOMO
GIAN (WHACK)
TEN OVERS.
OH MY. ALREADY TIME TO SWITCH OFF, I SEE... BUT...
...TO HAVE MANAGED A MERE TWENTY-ONE RUNS IS JUST...
BLUE 21
RED

CATCH IT, CLAY-TON!
UNDER-STOOD !!
POKO (WHOOK)
CLAYTONNN!
DOBAHHH!
THEY LL NEVER GET ANY-WHERE LIKE THAT!
LEAVE IT TO THE BOOK-WORMS OF BLUE HOUSE!
DO (BURP)
DAMN!
BA (SNATCH)
KYU (TUG)
LOOKS LIKE IT'S MY TURN.
HYUN (WHIZ)
THREE RUNS!!

NEXT UP...IS RED-MOND!
BRACE YOURSELF, KOWARD!
RIGHT!
EYAAAH!!
LORD REDDD-MONNNND~!!
READY WHEN YOU ARE.
WYUUUN (SHWOOOP)
(FLING)!!

NO. THIS IS THEIR STRATEGY.
GIVE IT A GOOD SMASH, HOUSE CAPTAIN!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT FLAG-GING BALL?
I-IT'S SLOW !?
SLOW BALLS ARE THE OPPOSITE— HE VENTURED A SLOW BALL TO PREVENT A LONG HIT!
LARGE REBOUND
SMALL REBOUND
BALLS FROM A FAST BOWLER ARE DIFFICULT TO BAT, BUT STRIKING THEM USUALLY RESULTS IN LONG HITS.
GYURU GYURU (SPIN)
THE SPEED OF THE BALL DOESN'T MATTER IN THE SLIGHTEST TO ME!!
WHAT KIND OF A STANCE IS THAT!?
L-LOOK!
HOWEVER —!
SUU (SWI?)

CRIMSON
ROSE
TORNADO!!

DOGO (WHACK)
WAAA (CHEER)
WAY TO GO, RED HOUSE!
WHOO-OOOO-OOOA!! A SIX!!
IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS DANCIIING ~! ♡
TON (THUMP)
AAAAA
STILL, TO BE ABLE TO HIT THE BALL SQUARELY AT ITS MIDPOINT WHILE REVOLVING LIKE THAT... IS MOST IMPRES-SIVE.
A SLOG* ENGINEERED TO FLY EVEN FARTHER DUE TO THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE CREATED BY SPINNING, HM?
I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS OF MY DEAR NEPHEW ...!!

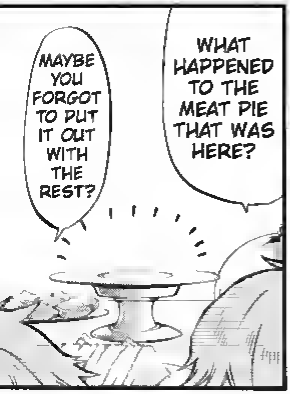
*POWER HITTING BY SWINGING THE BAT THROUGH THE BALL

COME ON THEN. I'LL TAKE ANY BALL YOU'VE GOT.
THE DANCE OF THIS GAME HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.
KUH ...!
FIELD DEEPER!!
RIGHT!
WAAA
MY, MY.
WHAT A VERY MUCH ONE-SIDED MATCH... BUT—
AAA
YOU DO STILL POSSESS THAT CARD, DON'T YOU?

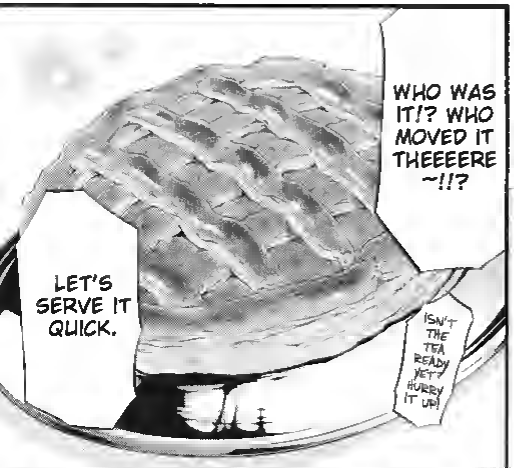
SAY.
YOU THERE...
HMM...
...MY LORD?
Cricket Tournament
4th June CUP
RED
BLUE
YES, YES. BE RIGHT WITH YOOOU~!
COME, COME! THESE FESTIVITIES ARE HELD ONLY ONCE A YEAR! AREN'T THERE ANY GALLANT HEARTS WHO'LL PUT THEIR MONEY ON BLUE HOUSE, THE LONG SHOT~!?
GIVE ME ONE OVER HERE TOO!!
RED FOR ME AS WELL!
AWWW, MY GOOD MAN, GOING WITH THE SURE BET, I SEE!
GIVE ME A RED CARD!
I SEE THAT FELLOW IS UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS TOO.
GOODNESS... GAMBLING ON SACRED SCHOOL GROUNDS...

DOYOOON (GLOOM)
どよーーーん
I SHOULD BE NEXT TO BOWL AFTER ALL.
PLEASE WAIT! WEREN'T YOU SAVING *THAT* FOR THE FINAL MATCH—
BUT IF WE LOSE HERE, THERE WON'T BE A FINAL FOR US.
WE STILL HAVE ONE INNINGS. I'M SURE WE'LL GET OUR CHANCE!
WE CAN'T ALLOW THEM TO SCORE MORE RUNS.
DON'T YOU AGREE, COACH?

COACH?
WHERE HAS MISTER MICHAELIS GONE!?
PERHAPS HE'S IN THE LAVATORY.
AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
IN ANY CASE, WE SHOULD NOT BE CHANGING OUR GAME PLAN WITHOUT CONSULTING OUR COACH!
BUT...
I'M BATTING NEXT.
WON'T YOU LEAVE THIS TO ME?
I DO!
I'LL FIND A WAY TO TURN THE TABLES AND GET US BACK INTO THE GAME, YOU'LL SEE!
DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?
.....
ZAWA
CMURMURD


WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEAT PIE THAT WAS HERE?
MAYBE YOU FORGOT TO PUT IT OUT WITH THE REST?

OUR GOOD OLD RED HOUSE IS GOING TO BREEZE TO VICTORY IN THIS MATCH!
BUT WE KNEW THAT ALREADY, DIDN'T WE?
OH?
WOULD YOU CHAPS STOP CHATTING AND HELP READY THE—


WHO WAS IT!? WHO MOVED IT THEEEERE ~!!?
LET'S SERVE IT QUICK.
ISN'T THE TEA READY YET? HURRY IT UP!

カパッ
KAPA (POP)
OH!
ISN'T THIS IT?
NO, THAT CAN'T—

SORRY TO KEEP YOU ALL WAITING!
SO OUR TRUE OPPONENT IS GREEN HOUSE AGAIN THIS YEAR, EH?
THIS MATCH HAS BEEN SO EASY TO PLAY, IT FEELS LIKE I'M SIMPLY TAKING A STROLL.
HOW VERY CONSID-ERATE!
THEN GIVE ME THE BIGGEST PIECE, DO!
HM? WAS IT REALLY A CHICKEN PIE?
NO, I BELIEVE IT IS CHICKEN.
BUT IS IT MADE OF BEEF?
MY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS FORBID ME TO EAT BEEF
OHH! NOW THAT LOOKS TASTY.
IN THIS SITUA-TION, A GENTLE-MAN MUST GIVE HIS OPPO-NENT A HANDICAP.
WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT WITH THOSE SLENDER ARMS OF HIS?
PERHAPS I'LL HAVE HARCOURT BOWL NEXT?

OHHH?
IS THAT RIGHT?
AND THE SPECTATORS WILL BE GLAD OF THE SIGHT OF BEAUTEOUS PLAYERS.
BESIDES, CRICKET IS "A GAME TO BE TAKEN IN" AS WELL.

AH!
WHERE WERE YOU, COACH!?
SU (SWF)
I DO APOLOGISE. I WENT TO THE LAVATORY.
YOU TOOK AGES! FOR GOOD-NESS SAKES!!

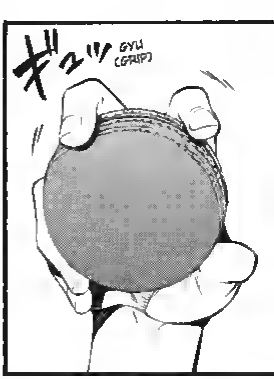
THE SECOND INNINGS WILL NOW BEGIN!

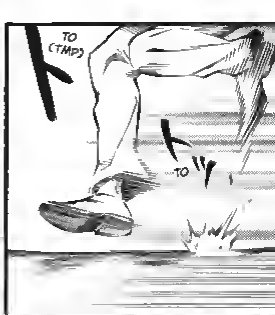
OOH, I SAY! WHAT A FETCHING SHOW-DOWN THIS WILL BE!
BUT THAT BOY WITH THE EYE PATCH... I FEEL SURE I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE...

LET'S BOTH GIVE IT EVERY-THING WE'VE GOT...
...PHAN-TOMHIVE.

OF COURSE, HARCOURT.

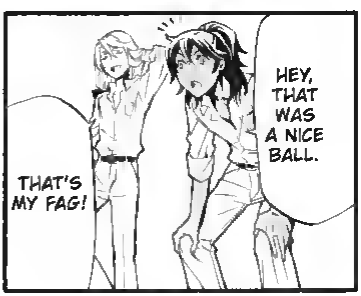
BU (WHIP)


GYU (GRIP)


TO (TMP)
TO

GYARURURU (SPIN)
KUH!
SPIN BOWLING!
(GA) (WHACK)

A BALL WITH A FAST SPIN ON IT WILL BOUNCE NEAR THE BATSMAN'S LEGS AND DRAMATICALLY CHANGE TRAJECTORY!
IN CRICKET BOWLING, ONE BOUNCE OF THE BALL IS ALLOWED.
PASHI (WHAP)


HEY, THAT WAS A NICE BALL.
THAT'S MY FAG!

GAKI (CRACK)
KUH!
HYAAH!!
BI (WHIP)

DOFU (THWAP)
BI!

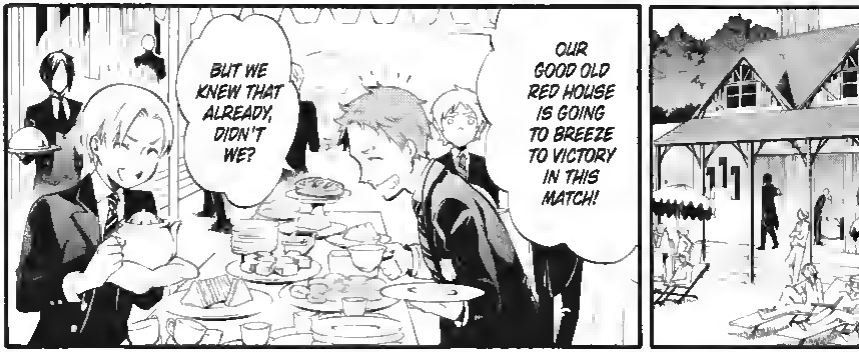
THOSE AREN'T THE EYES OF A FELLOW WHO'S ALREADY CHUCKED IT IN!!
BASHI (SMACK)
NO, WAIT...
WHY, HE'S GOT HIS HANDS FULL JUST DEFENDING!!

HOWEVER, HE CAN'T TOTALLY READ THE COURSE OF THE BALL.
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HIT HARCOURT'S BOWLS.
YOUR BALLS HAVE MORE SPIN NOW!
FINISH HIM OFF WITH YOUR NEXT BOWL!
KOKU ONOO
I'M SORRY, PHANTOMHIVE.
THIS—
WILL BE THE END !!

TON (TOK)
DO (THUD)
DOSA (WHUMP)
UGH!
DO
WHAT THE —!?
UGH!
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING!?
URGH!!
WHAT'S WRONG, HAR-COURT!?

MY STOM-ACH ...!
M—
GUGYURURURU (GULLURGLE)
コロ コロ..
KORO KORO (ROLL)
TON (TAP)

LOOKS LIKE THE TIME HAS COME.


OUR GOOD OLD RED HOUSE IS GOING TO BREEZE TO VICTORY IN THIS MATCH!
BUT WE KNEW THAT ALREADY, DIDN'T WE?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MEAT PIE THAT WAS HERE?
OH?
WOULD YOU CHAPS STOP CHATTING AND HELP READY THE —
SU (SWIP)

BATTING ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO TURN THE TABLES.
KO
ZOU GEKI!!
HOW DID YOU LIKE THE TASTE OF MEAT PIE WITH A DASH OF EXTRA-STRENGTH PURGATIVE ADDED TO IT!?
SO TELL ME, HOW WAS IT?
I can't...!
If I move now, I'll...!
WAIT! WE'VE LEFT ONE BEHIND!!
WE CAN'T EXPOSE THE SPECTATORS HERE TO SUCH A SHAMEFUL SIGHT...
RETREAT!!
RETREAT!!
AH....!!
FUGYUU-E GUMURA
HAR-COURT!! I'LL COME RESCUE Y—
DON'T ACT IN HASTE. YOU'RE A PREFECT!

HARCOOOOURT!
PEKA (BEAM)
OH DEAR...
QUEL TRAG EDY!!
BUT!
THAT BOY IS MOST FINE!!

AMEN.
ER...
LIM...

SHHHH (SILENCE)
THAT'S THE TICKET!
HEY ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
GUTTARI (LIMP)

EH...

THUS, THE FIRST MATCH GOES TO THE SAPPHIRE OWLS!!
THE SCARLET FOXES ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE PLAYING AND WILL THEREFORE WITHDRAW FROM THE MATCH.

EEEEEEH!!?
(STEP)
HOH! HOH! HOH!
WELL, WELL, HOUSE-MASTER MICHAELIS.
MISTER TANAKA!?
WHAT SPLENDID TIMING PLEASE HAVE THIS FOR YOUR LUNCH.
OHH, THANK YOU.
BEEF MINCE PIE, EH?
BUT ...
... JUST ONE THING, IF I MAY.

PFFT!
CER-
TAINLY
NOT.
SURELY, PARTAKING OF THIS TREAT WILL NOT GIVE ME AN UPSET STOMACH?

YES, SIR.

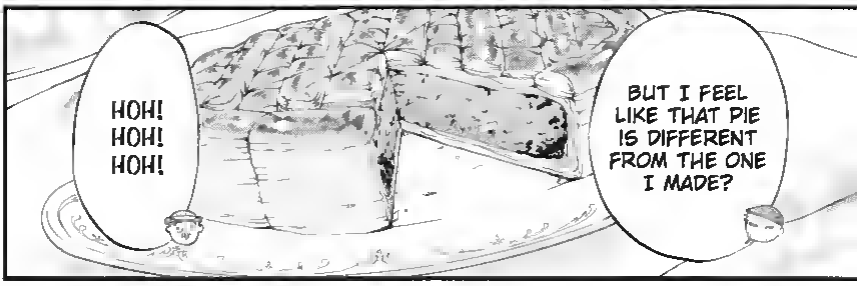
I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO...
...A SECOND "MIRACLE OF SAPPHIRES."

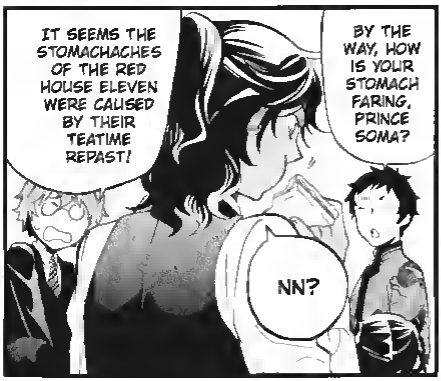
Black Butler

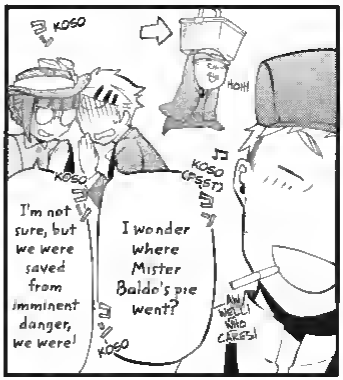
CHAPTER 77

At midnight : The Butler, Giving a Concert

MMM, DELI-CIOUS! ♡
YOU NEVER LET ME DOWN, BALDO!
AWW, I'M NOT THAT GREAT!


BUT I FEEL LIKE THAT PIE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I MADE?
HOH! HOH! HOH!


BY THE WAY, HOW IS YOUR STOMACH FARING, PRINCE SOMA?
IT SEEMS THE STOMACHACHES OF THE RED HOUSE ELEVEN WERE CAUSED BY THEIR TEATIME REPAST!
NN?


KOSO
HOH!
KOSO (FAST)
KOSO
I'm not sure, but we were saved from imminent danger, we were!
I wonder where Mister Baldo's pie went?
KOSO
AW WELL! WHO CARES!

I'M DANDY. I HAVE THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF SHIVA, GOD OF GOOD HEALTH!
GA-HEHAH
MAYBE I SHOULD CONVERT TO HINDUISM TOO?
OHHH? HOW CONVE-NIENT.

I HAD HEARD PEOPLE FROM INDIA HAVE STRONG STOMACHS...
.. BUT I DID NOT THINK THEY WERE THIS TOUGH

WAAAA
IT APPEARS THAT THE MATCH OVER THERE IS LIVENING UP AS WELL.

WAAA (CHEER)

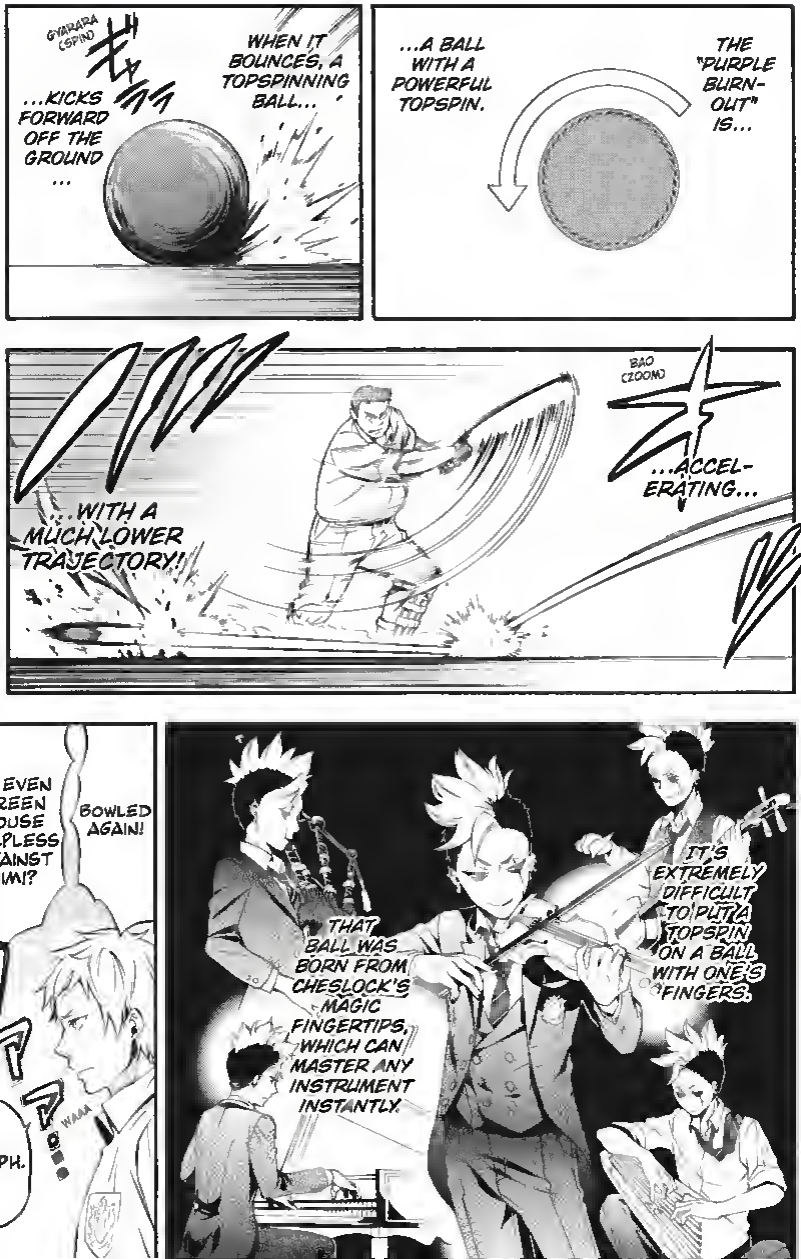
WAAAA (CHEER)
BI (FLING)
HERE I GO!
DULL BOWLS ARE JUST NOT MY STYLE.
HYAH-HAAH!!!
GIVE US A FANCY DANCE, YOU MACHO MEAT-HEADS!!
ZA (SKID)
GO, GREEN HOUSE!!
WAAAA
ZU (SCRAPE)
ZURI
CRUSH THEM, PURPLE HOUSE!!

RUSHING VIOLET VAPOUR, PURPLE BURNOUT!!

GYARURURU (WHORRRL)
BOWLED!!
WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THAT LOW BOWLING FORM...
...AND THE SUDDEN ACCELERATION!?
SAY, VIOLET, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY—
WAAAA (CHEER)

WOULD YOU AT LEAST TRY TO AVOID BEING HERE!?

GARAAN (SHOCK)
YOU WEREN'T EVEN WATCHING!!?


GYARARA (SPIN)
...KICKS FORWARD OFF THE GROUND ...
WHEN IT BOUNCES, A TOPSPINNING BALL...
...A BALL WITH A POWERFUL TOPSPIN.
THE "PURPLE BURN-OUT" IS...
BAO (ZOOM)
...ACCEL-ERATING...
...WITH A MUCH LOWER TRAJECTORY!
IS EVEN GREEN HOUSE HELPLESS AGAINST HIM!?
BOWLED AGAIN!
WAAA
HMPH.
THAT BALL WAS BORN FROM CHESLOCK'S MAGIC FINGERTIPS, WHICH CAN MASTER ANY INSTRUMENT INSTANTLY.
IT'S EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PUT A TOPSPIN ON A BALL WITH ONE'S FINGERS.

WHOOOOOOA!!
(WHOOOSH)
DON (BAM)
A SIX!
THAT'S GREEN-HILL FOR YOU!
THE MAN KNOWN AS THE BEST CRICKETER IN THE HISTORY OF THIS SCHOOL!

DASH YOU, BOSS MON-KEY!
KUH!
A-AMAZIIIING! GREENHILL IS UNSTOP-PABLE!!
WHEN'LL HE QUIT HITTING THE BALL!?
DON
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A BALL I CAN'T HIT!
WAAA (CHEER)
GREEN 213
PURPLE 120
...THE GREEN LIONS!
THE VICTORY GOES TO...

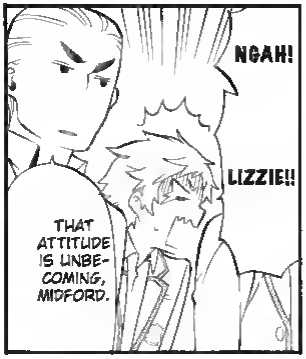
I'M DONE.
NOW THAT THE MATCH IS OVER IT'S TIME TO SHAKE HANDS
VIOLET, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

NN?
OF COURSE.
WAAA (CHEER)
THAT WAS PRACTICALLY A WHITE-WASH!

DON'T STEP ON IT, ALL RIGHT?
DON (BAM)
WHA—!?

NOW LOOK HERE, YOOOU!
TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY!!
SO THE FINAL IS TO BE GREEN HOUSE AGAINST BLUE HOUSE, EH?
IT'S THE SAME AS WHEN THE "MIRACLE OF SAPPHIRES" OCCURRED. IT MAKES MY HEART DANCE, FRANCIS!
. . YES. . DOESN'T IT JUST ...?
OUR OPPONENT IN THE FINAL IS GREEN HOUSE, THE ABSOLUTE CHAMPIONS.
CAN WE REALLY WIN?
LET'S WIN THIS!
NOT JUST FOR US, BUT ALSO FOR RED HOUSE, WHO WERE REGRETFULLY ELIMINATED!
PHANTOM-HIVE...
YES!
FOR RED HOUSE TOO!

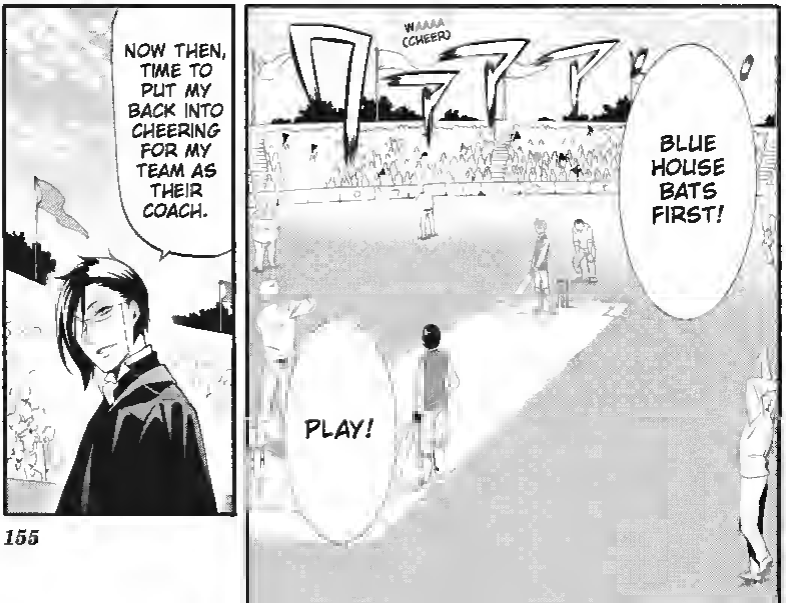
THE FINAL MATCH—
—THE SAPPHIRE OWLS VS. THE GREEN LIONS—
—WILL NOW BEGIN!


NGAH!
LIZZIE!!
THAT ATTITUDE IS UNBE-COMING, MIDFORD.

CIEEEL, DO YOUR BESSST!!
WILL IT EVEN BE A GAME WORTH WATCH-ING?
IT'S AS IF MEN ARE PLAYING AGAINST BOYS.
GRR!

...DO GO EASY ON US.
...NGH! WE'LL GIVE YOU A THOROUGH THRASHING!
GIRI (GRIND)
GIRI (GRIND)

WE ARE HONOURED.
WE'LL COME AT YOU WITH EVERY-THING WE'VE GOT.

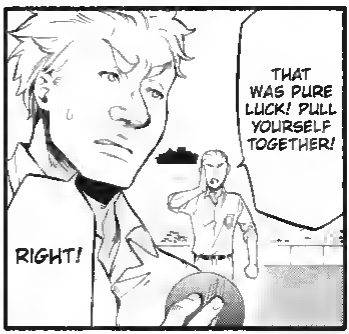

NOW THEN, TIME TO PUT MY BACK INTO CHEERING FOR MY TEAM AS THEIR COACH.
WAAAA (CHEER)
BLUE HOUSE BATS FIRST!
PLAY!

NOW EVERYONE, TOGETHER, IF YOU PLEASE.
ZURA (ORDERLY)
KA (TOK)
KA
I SEE THAT GREEN HOUSE CANNOT EVEN AFFORD TO ENJOY A LITTLE MUSIC.
WHAT IS MISTER MICHAELIS THINKING?
THEY'RE PLAYING MUSIC TO CHEER ON THEIR TEAM!? HOW COARSE!
"RADETZKY MARCH."
FIRST PIECE.

GOO (WHOOSH)
EEK ...!
DA (LUNGE)
HERE WE GO!!
GYUO (ZOOM)
DOGO (WHACK)

WAA
CCHEER)
THEY GOT FOUR RUNS JUST LIKE THAT!!
H-HE HIT THE BALL —!?

BI
CWHIP)


THAT WAS PURE LUCK! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
RIGHT!

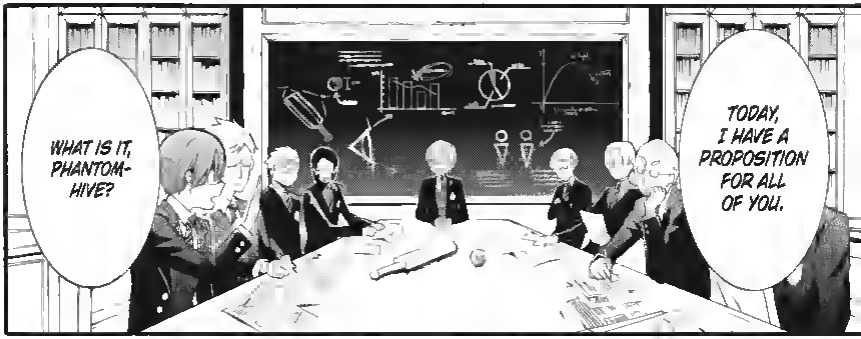
WHAT —!?
HMM!?

GAKO
CWHOCK)

HE WAS SWINGING IN SUCH WEAK FORM, BUT HE MANAGED TO HIT HEINZ'S EXPLOSIVE FASTBALL.
HOW COULD HE DO THAT!?
THREE RUNS!
SU (SWISH)
HIS EYES ARE...
THEY'RE CLOSED —!?
DON (BAM)
WHA —!?

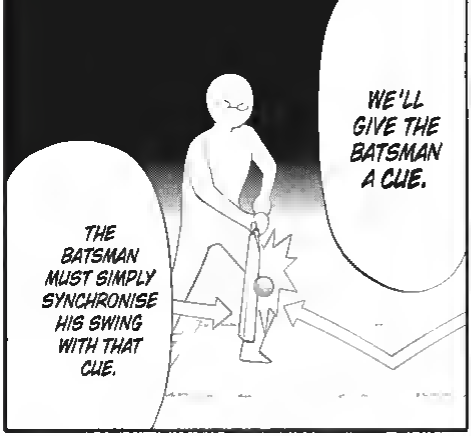
HOW CAN HE MANAGE TO HIT A BALL LIKE THAT!?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

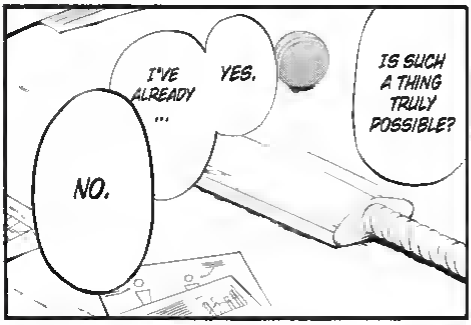
— ONE WEEK AGO —


WHAT IS IT, PHANTOM-HIVE?
TODAY, I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR ALL OF YOU.

ZUBA (BLUNT)
I WILL SPEAK FRANKLY.
PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND ATHLETIC ABILITY...
...I BELIEVE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US, WHO MONOPOLISE THE LOWEST RANKS IN BOTH, TO KEEP UP WITH THE EXPLOSIVE FASTBALLS OF GREEN HOUSE.

WE DON'T LOOK AT THE BALL.
KA (TOK)
ZAWA (CLAMOR)
ざわっ
!?
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!
SO THIS IS WHAT I HAVE DEVISED.
KA (CLICK)
WE WON'T KNOW WHEN TO SWING OUR BATS WHEN WE'RE NOT EVEN LOOKING AT THE BALL.
YES, WE WILL.
PAN (CLAP)
THEN IF WE SWING OUR BATS WITHIN THIS FIELD WHEN A BALL PASSES THROUGH IT, THE BAT SHOULD HIT THE BALL IN THEORY.
THE OBJECTIVE OF CRICKET IS TO TAKE A WICKET, SO THE BALL IS VERY LIKELY TO PASS THROUGH A FIELD OF 28 INCHES HIGH x 9 INCHES WIDE.
9 INCHES (APPROX. 22.5 CM)
28 INCHES (APPROX. 70 CM)



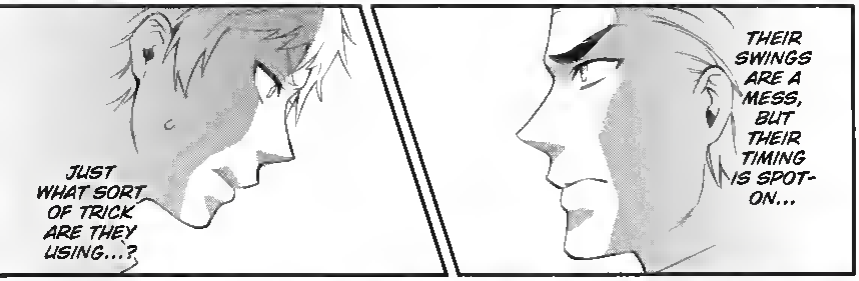


*THIS PHRASE IS USED TO MEAN "THAT IS UNFAIR," FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET THAT PUTS A HIGH VALUE ON FAIR PLAY.

WOULD IT NOT BE MORE UNGENTLEMANLY FOR THE BLUE HOUSE OF "TACTICS" TO FIGHT AGAINST THE GREEN HOUSE OF "POWER" WITH SIMPLE BRUTE FORCE?
BLUE HOUSE HAS "INTELLIGENCE AND TACTICS"!
AND TO DO IT FAIRLY, BLUE HOUSE SHOULD USE ALL WE HAVE FOR COURTESY'S SAKE.
WE'LL RISK OUR PRIDE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE OTHER HOUSES.
...AND HAVE EVERYBODY DO ALL THEY CAN TO CHALLENGE OUR OPPONENTS!!
SO WE SHOULD DEVISE SCHEMES TO WIN WITHIN THE BORDERLINE LIMITS OF THE RULES...
BLUE HOUSE IS WEAK!
WHAT WILL THAT CUE BE?
WELL?
I UNDER-STAND.
.....

BUN
(SWING)
PI
(FLICK)
JAAAN
(CRASH)
GAKO
(WHACK)

JAAAN
DOKO (WHACK)


THEIR SWINGS ARE A MESS, BUT THEIR TIMING IS SPOT-ON...
JUST WHAT SORT OF TRICK ARE THEY USING...?

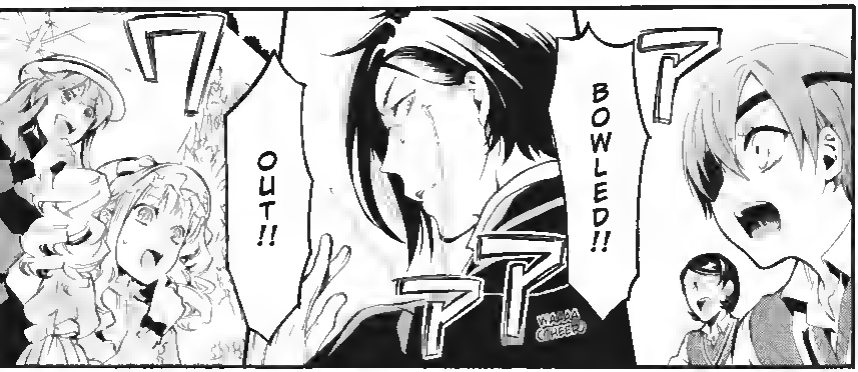
NOW I GET IT...
SO YOU PICKED UP ON IT TOO?
(FWIP)

THEY... REALLY WORKED HARD!
MM...
IT'S TRUE. I CAN'T CONDONE THEIR USING MUSIC, BUT—
EEH!?
GAUN (CHOCK)
NN?
TH-THIS MAN TRUSTS PEOPLE TOO MUCH.
THAT'S EVEN MORE REASON WHY I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW ABOUT THIS TRICK.
GREEN-HILL.
WILL YOU LET ME BOWL NEXT?

WE SCORED FORTY RUNS!
AND WE'RE STILL BATTING!
LET'S SCORE MORE RUNS WHILE WE STILL CAN.
NN?
ZA (STEP)
HERE COMES EDWARD!
YOU'VE RESORTED TO DIRTY TRICKS NO GENTLEMAN SHOULD STOOP TO—
I WILL NOT TOLER-ATE IT!!
WH-WHAT IS THAT!?

RUSHING VIOLET VAPOUR, PURPLE BURNOUT!!

JAAAN (CRAAASH)
BAON (BOUNCE)


BOWLED!!
OUT!!
WAAAA (CHEER)

PHEEEW...

THAT LOUSE, WHEN DID HE ...?

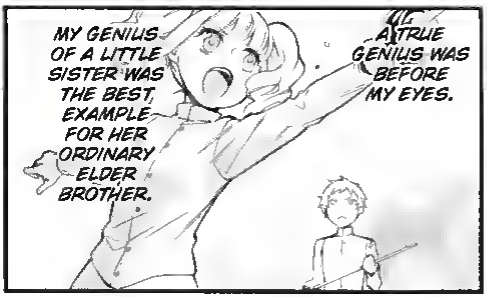
ZAWA (MURMUR)
HOW CAN A GREEN HOUSE PLAYER BOWL IT!?
THAT'S THE BALL CHESLOCK OF PURPLE HOUSE BOWLED!!

I'M... ORDINARY.

...WHO'D JUST BEGUN TO LEARN TO FENCE.

...I WAS BEATEN BLACK-AND-BLUE BY MY KID SISTER...

WHEN I WAS TEN...



ワアア…
WAAA (CHEER)
ORDI-NARY...
...THAT'S WHAT HE MUST BE THINKING.
...SO THAT I CAN COME A LITTLE CLOSER TO THE GENIUSES I ADMIRE.
HE GENUINELY RESPECTS THE TALENTS OF OTHERS WITHOUT ENVY...
...AND DEDICATES HIMSELF SO HIS STRENGTHS CAN APPROACH THOSE OF THE GENIUSES.
SINGLE-MINDED RESPECT.
THAT'S YOUR TALENT.
YOU'RE... A GENIUS.

WELL DONE.
I DID NOT THINK HE WOULD SEE THROUGH THE TRICK THIS FAST.
BAKA (WHAT?)
OUT!
I'VE SMASHED UP THE ORCHESTRA BATTING TRICK!
...IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HIT IT WITH THE CUE THAT'S GIVEN BEFORE THE BALL HITS THE GROUND.
THE SPEED AND HEIGHT OF THIS BALL CHANGES DRAMATICALLY AFTER IT BOUNCES...
IT'S THE HEAD-MASTER!
THEN LET US SWITCH TO OUR NEXT SCHEME.
HEY, LOOK OVER THERE ...!

BA (FWIP)
SO THAT...IS THE HEADMASTER!
KOKU (NOD)
SU (SWF) RECRUITER AS ASSISTANT
MC-MILLAN.
YES?
EH!?
PON (TOSS)
YOU TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
YOU'VE FINALLY MADE YOUR APPEARANCE, HEADMASTER!
CAPTURING YOU WILL SOLVE EVERYTHING.
WAIT! MISTER MICHAE-LIIIIS!?
DA (CRASH)
EEEH!?

To be continued in Black Butler 17

Black Butler
黒執事

Downstairs

Wakana Haduki

7

Saito Torino

Tsuki Sorano

Chiaki Nagaoka

Asakura

*

Takeshi Kuma

*

Yana Toboso

Adviser

Rico Murakami

Naoki Miyaji
(Japan Cricket Association)

Special thanks to You!

Translation Notes

Inside Front and Back Covers

Do you want to go to New Delhi!?

There used to be a Japanese TV quiz show called *Trans America Ultra Quiz*, where challengers travelled across the U S while answering various trivia questions en route to New York, their final destination The host of the show used to shout, "Do you want to go to New York!?" during the preliminaries

Page 21

Sunt aliquid manes … amoris.

The Latin poem that the students are reciting in this scene is Elegy No 7 from Part 4 of *Cynthia Monobiblos* by the Latin poet Sextus Propertius (54 BC–16 BC)

Page 106

Tournament cricket format

The type of cricket being played in the interhouse tournament is known as limited overs cricket

Page 152

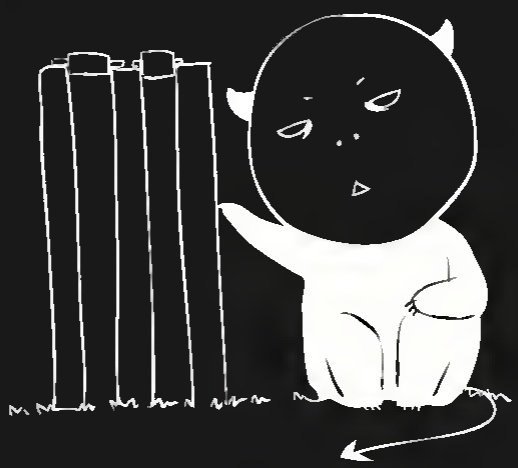
Whitewash

A sporting term used in cricket when one team sweeps all the matches in a series

Page 156

"Radetsky March"

This famous patriotic march was composed by Austrian classical composer Johann Strauss I in 1848



Yana Toboso

Author's Note

My assistants, who help me with my ***Black Butler*** manuscripts, are all extremely competent.

They're wonderful, supporting me by drawing delicate teacups, gorgeous stained glass windows, decadent castles, sophisticated long-reach pruners, stylish *sotoba*, and intensely burning miracle balls, all under my instructions.

It was in just such a merry environment that Volume 16 came into being.

Black Quiz

A powerful human drama in which an orphan street child who grew up in a tough slum environment participates as a challenger on the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" game show to travel across India in search of his roots (or not)!

...or something.

BLACK BUTLER 16

Yana Toboso

Translation: Tomo Kimura • Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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